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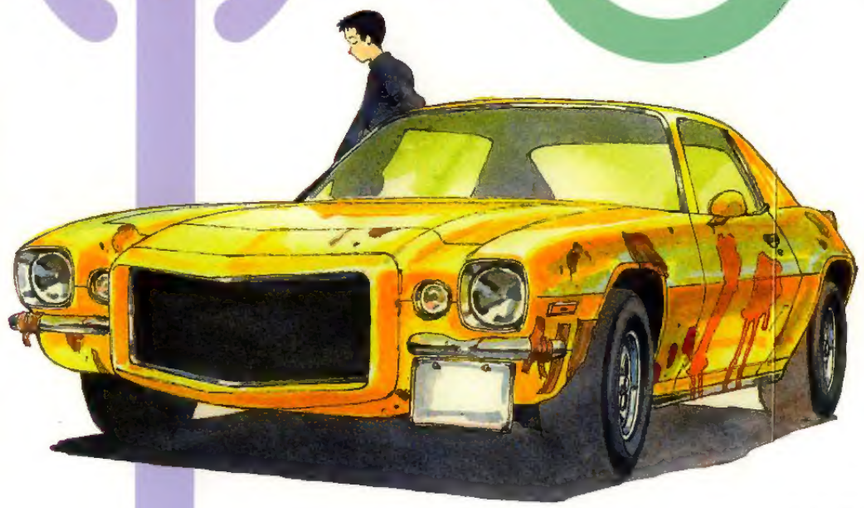
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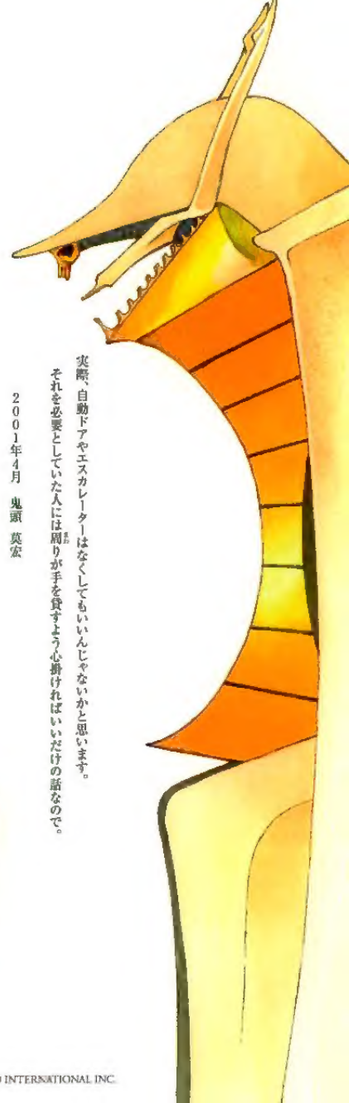
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親友の死と別れを越え、中学生になったシイナ。
進学先は「万朶学園」。
シイナの新しい生活が始まる。——しかし、
そこには竜の子・アマポーラを操る小沢さとみがいた。

骸なる星 珠たる子





実際、自動ドアやエスカレーターはなくしてもいいんじゃないかと思います。
それを必要としていた人には助かりが手を貸すよう心掛ければいいだけの話なので。

2001年4月 鬼頭 莫宏

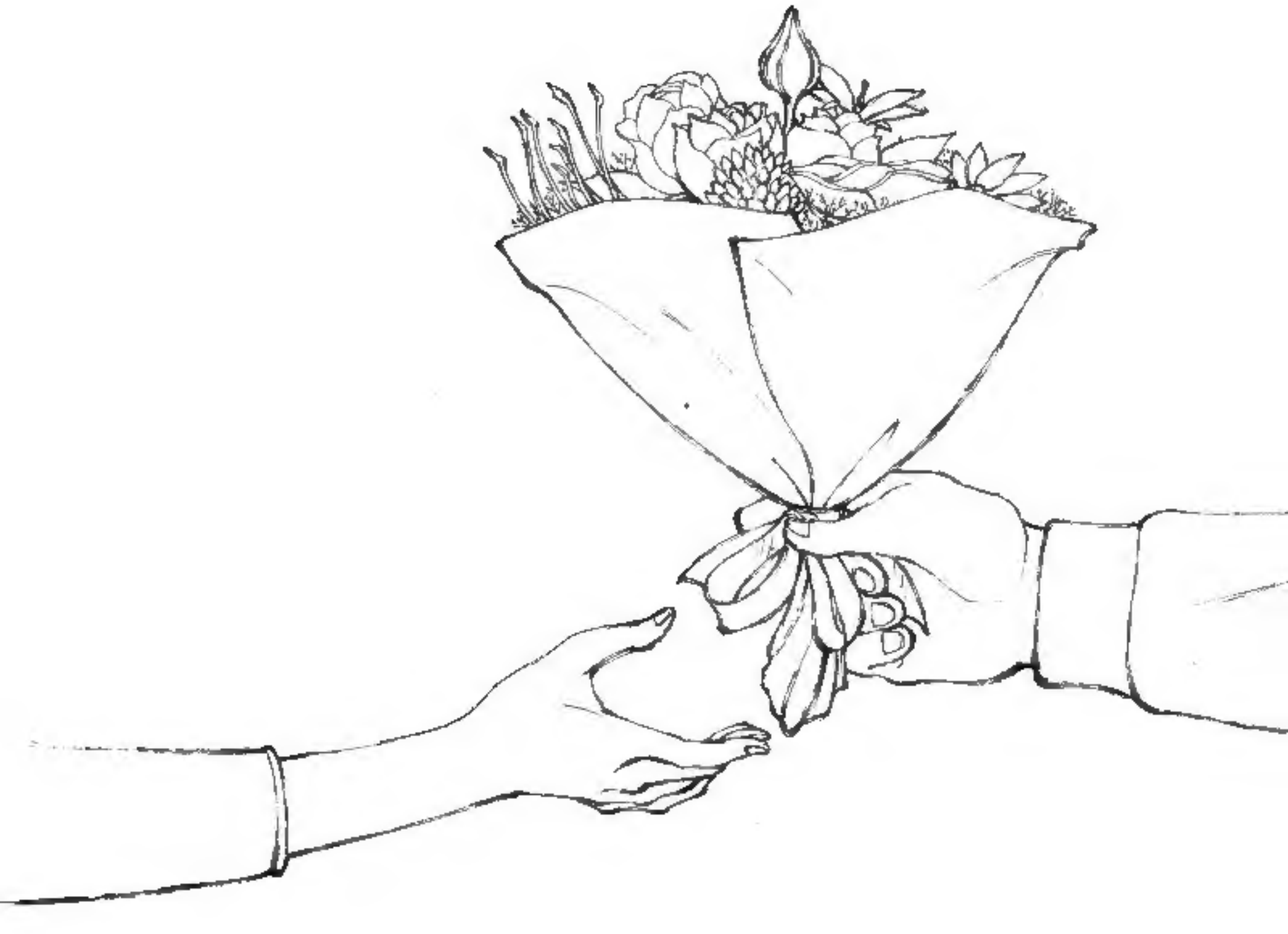
Cover Design: GRID INTERNATIONAL INC.

むくまろなるほし たまたるこ



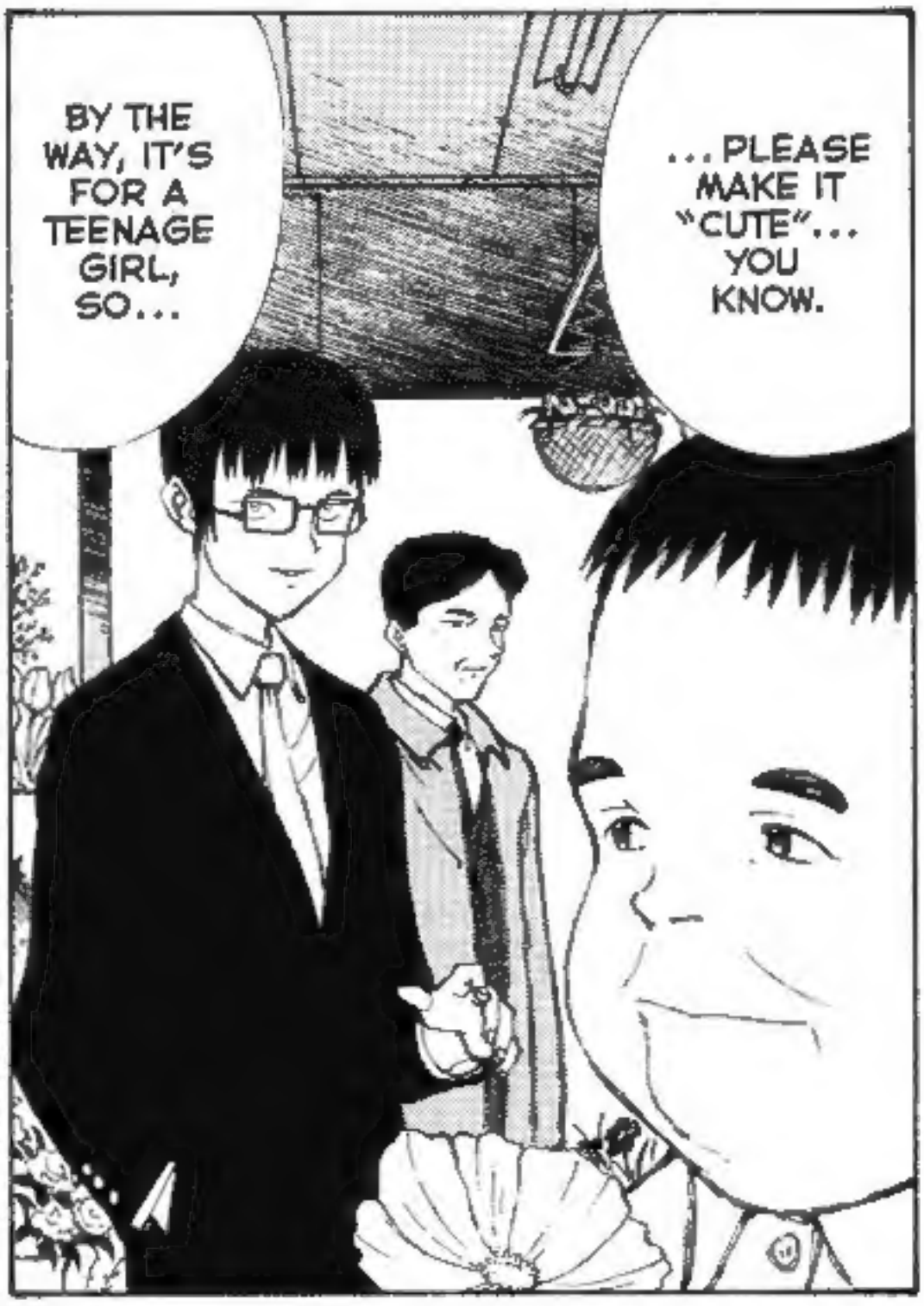
THE HEART THAT WRAPS THE FLOWERS

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH




花
FOLLOW-UP'S QUITE A HASSLE, ISN'T IT?


NOT REALLY.
I DON'T MIND DOING THINGS LIKE THIS.


BY THE WAY, IT'S FOR A TEENAGE GIRL, SO...
...PLEASE MAKE IT "CUTE"... YOU KNOW.


WELL, YOURS ISN'T...
...A BUSY POST.

UM...

OH... OKAY.

THE QUESTION IS, HOW FAR WE CAN FOOL THEM?

I WONDER? IT RAN AROUND RIGHT IN THE OPEN, THAT'S FOR SURE.

BUT MY GUESS IS IT'LL BE OKAY. NOBODY'LL BE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER ALL THE PIECES.

IT'LL BE JUST ANOTHER INEXPLICABLE, SUPERNATURAL INCIDENT FOR THE RECORDS. YES...?

HA, HA!

THAT'S HOW I FEEL, TOO... AND I'M THE BUREAU'S VICE DIRECTOR.

LEAK JUST ENOUGH INFORMA-TION SO THAT NO ONE THINKS ANYTHING'S BEING HIDDEN.

DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE TRUE.

AND THAT'LL SATISFY EVERYONE.

I MUST SAY YOU'VE REALLY PUT TOGETHER A "CONVENIENT" ORGANIZATION.

VICE DIRECTOR-CLASS STAFF, AN ABSENT DIRECTOR...

YES?

IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, A FIGUREHEAD "ACTING DIRECTOR" TAKES THE FALL...

...AND THE *REAL* LEADER DOESN'T LOSE HIS HEAD.

SO, WHETHER THINGS GO WELL OR NOT... WE'RE COVERED.

WITHOUT THAT KIND OF ORGANI-ZATION...

...WE CAN'T MOVE AHEAD LOOKING AT THE *BIG PICTURE.*

IT'S BECAUSE *IT* CAN'T DO THAT...

...THAT THE GOVERN-MENT IS SO INCONSIS-TENT.

BUT IF YOU DON'T STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE...

...YOU GET A DICTA-TORSHIP.

REALLY, VICE DIRECTOR AMARI!

I'M A MERE PUBLIC SERVANT--I WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE *WHOLE* OF SOCIETY.

I'M NO POLITI-CIAN.

REALLY.

ANYWAY, I JUST HAPPENED TO HEAR...

...THAT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE *PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION* HAS ITS EYE ON YOU.

ON *MOI?*

SO, DON'T GET YOURSELVES DESIGNATED A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

UH... WELL...

IT... IT'S... REA... DY.

THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS.

TH-THANK *YOU*, S... SIR.

SHEESH, YOU *KNOW* THAT GUY?

BTAM

BTAM

THE DEPART-MENT ALWAYS COMES HERE.

WHY? HE SEEMS PRETTY DUMB TO ME... AND HE WAS *SLOW.*

YES, BUT HE ALWAYS DOES A GOOD, CAREFUL JOB.

SOMEHOW, I THINK IT'S HIS *NATURE* COMING THROUGH.

ER... DO YOU KNOW IF MISS SATO IS FREE FRIDAY NIGHT?

I NEED TO BORROW HER, IF POSSIBLE.

WHY?

THE MIKURA GROUP'S THROWING A PARTY.

IT'D BE EASIER TO COLLECT INFORMATION WITH HER THERE... YOU KNOW?

WELL, I'M NOT HER SECRETARY...

...MAYBE YOU BETTER GO AHEAD AND ASK HER YOURSELF.

ACTUALLY... I DID. BUT SHE BLEW ME OFF.

SAID SHE'S GOT A *DATE*, SO...

PARDON ...?

WELL, IT'S NOT *ME*.

HUH? IT'S NOT?

PLEASE... SHE WOULDN'T *DREAM* OF DATING ME.

THE LOVELY AKI HAS A SERIOUS, LONG-TERM BOYFRIEND.

NO KID-DING?

YOU KNOW NATSUNO?

THE STUD FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS...? HE MADE A MOVE ON HER.

IS THAT A FACT?

I HADN'T HEARD.

NOT SURPRISING. WHO COULD COMPARE TO *HER* BOYFRIEND?

SHE BLEW HIM OUT OF THE WATER, BIG TIME.

YOU'RE INTRIGUED ...?

WELL, *YEAH.*

THINK ABOUT IT.

HE'S THE FAMOUS *MISS AKI SATO'S* BOYFRIEND.

HA HA HA!

SHAKES YOUR CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AS A MALE, DOESN'T IT?

HE'S *THAT* IMPRES-SIVE OF A GUY?

"WOULDN'T KNOW. NEVER MET HIM.

"BUT HE REALLY *MUST* BE SOMETHING ELSE, YES? BECAUSE THE AMAZING AKI'S IN LOVE WITH HIM."

FAST-TRACKER IN THE BUREAU?

HEIR TO SOME VAST FORTUNE?

AHH, PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SHE'S A *DANGEROUS* WOMAN.

THAT AKI SATO...

HEH-CHOO!

NOTE: It is a Japanese belief that when someone is talking about you behind your back, you will sneeze

I'M OFF. SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

YOU BROKE VICE DIRECTOR AMARI'S HEART, YOU KNOW.

HOW UNFORTUNATE. I DO VALUE MY WORK, BUT...

...I *EQUALLY* VALUE MY PRIVATE TIME.

AND BESIDES, THE MEN HERE...

...SHOULD LEARN TO DO *THAT* MUCH ON THEIR OWN.

BTAM

社

HUH? MISS SATO?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MR. AMARI?

OH, JUST THOUGHT I'D PICK UP SOME FLOWERS.

WELL...

ACTUALLY, I'M...

ER... HOW ABOUT YOU?

WHA --?!

MISS SATO!

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO WORK OUTSIDE THE BUREAU!

NOT WORK-ING.

I'M JUST HELPING OUT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP ALL THE TIME, AKI.

IT'S NOTH-ING.

GENTLE-MEN, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...

...TO MY FIANCÉ...

...MUTSUMI AKIYOSHI.

YES, SIR... .....

SHE'S A DANGEROUS, *DANGEROUS* WOMAN.

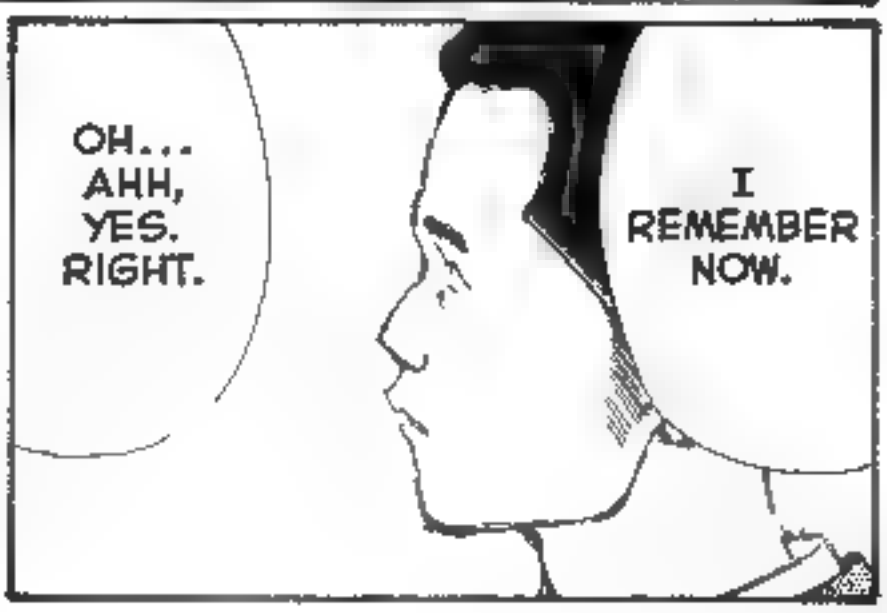
...AND, LIES.






WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?


MY FAMILY MEMBERS ARE MISSING. BOTH MY PARENTS AND MY OLDER BROTHER.
I'VE SUBMITTED THE APPRO-PRIATE MISSING PERSONS REPORTS.


OH... AHH, YES. RIGHT.
I REMEMBER NOW.

WELL, THEN... IT'S *YOUR* DECISION, FOR BETTER OR WORSE...

YOUR GRADES ARE ALMOST *TOO* GOOD TO BE TRUE...

...SO I SUPPOSE YOU'LL MANAGE *ANYWHERE*, SUDO.

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANYBODY DROP OUT *TWICE* BEFORE.

IT SETS A BAD PRECEDENT FOR THE OTHER STUDENTS, YOU KNOW.

ER... YOU *COULD* TAKE THE UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS, YOU KNOW. GO STRAIGHT THERE...

OKAY, I GUESS YOU'RE NOT INTER-ESTED.

DO YOU HAVE *ANY* PLANS?

YES.
I HAVE
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
DO.

I...

...PLAN
TO DO
VOLUNTEER
WORK...

WHAT
IS IT?

THIS
"SOMETHING"
...?

"...TOWARDS
THE
CREATION
OF A *FAIR*
SOCIETY."

NAOZUMI ...!

AH... ER...

I WAS YOUR HOME ROOM TEACHER LAST YEAR/ CLASS 3-C.

MS. OCHIYA.

AH ...!

MY APOLOGIES.

I KNOW VERY WELL...

...THERE ISN'T MUCH A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER CAN DO FOR HIS OR HER STUDENTS.

BUT SOMEHOW, I FEEL *RESPONSIBLE* FOR YOU, NAOZUMI.

YOUR FIRST TWO YEARS YOU HAD NO PROBLEMS AT ALL.

BUT IN YOUR THIRD YEAR... AFTER YOU CAME TO MY CLASS...

...YOU *CHANGED* SO MUCH.

YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT, MS. OCHIYA.

YOUR EXISTENCE HAD NO INFLUENCE UPON ME AT ALL.

THAT'S JUST THE SORT OF THING I MEAN!

IS IT BECAUSE YOUR FAMILY'S GONE MISSING?

1

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A HUGE SHOCK. IT WOULD CHANGE ANYBODY.

OR SO I THOUGHT...

...AT FIRST.

BUT...

IT *COULD* BE SEEN ANOTHER WAY.

THAT YOUR FAMILY'S MISSING... *BECAUSE* YOU CHANGED.

=ULD=

I... I'M SORRY.

THERE'RE SOME THINGS WE SHOULDN'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT...

MS. OCHIYA.

YOU KNOW THE RECENT INCIDENT IN WHICH A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL KILLED HER FATHER?

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

W... WELL...

OF COURSE IT'S NOT A GOOD THING TO KILL *ANYONE.*

BUT WHEN IT'S A *PARENT...*

...THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME SPECIAL EDGE TO IT.

THERE MUST BE UNIQUE FAMILY PROBLEMS BEHIND EVERY SUCH INCIDENT THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED.

KILLING YOUR PARENTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER KINDS OF MURDERS.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE RULING CLASS IN PARTICULAR DISLIKED IT SO MUCH?

3

I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE PARENTS ARE SYMBOLS OF THOSE IN POWER.

THERE'S EVEN A SPECIAL WORD FOR IT-- *PARRICIDE.*

AND ONE MORE REASON.

TO BE PRECISE... BECAUSE THE ACT...

...RE-NOUNCES THE FUTURE.

"RENOUNCES THE *FUTURE*" ...?

MS. OCHIYA... DO YOU REALLY THINK WE HUMANS...

...*HAVE* A FUTURE?

"IT'S A PROBLEM EVERYBODY WORRIES ABOUT... BUT ALSO PRETENDS NOT TO NOTICE.

"A PROBLEM EVERYBODY TRIES TO HOPE SOMEONE ELSE WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT SOMEDAY.

"AND YET WE STILL CONTINUE WASTING OUR RESOURCES ON FRIVOLITIES, JUST TO HAVE AN EASIER LIFE.

"AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS...

"ESCALATORS, AUTOMATIC DOORS...

"AUTOMOBILES, MOTORCYCLES.

"COMPUTERS.

"TELEVISION.

"MUSIC.

"GAMES. BOOKS."

BUT... MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT...

...AREN'T THOSE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF SOCIETY?

PERHAPS. BUT THEY SHOULD EMERGE *NATURALLY* FROM WITHIN OUR SOCIAL GROUPS.

PRODUCTS CREATED ONLY FOR PROFIT ARE HOLLOW AND SPIRITLESS.

AND IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT THINGS GIVEN TO YOU BY OTHERS, THEN PERHAPS THERE'S NO NEED...

...FOR YOU TO LIVE AT ALL.

"WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN...

"...IF THE WHOLE WORLD WENT FOR A YEAR WITHOUT FOSSIL FUELS?"

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT TO TRY?

EVEN IF A BILLION OR SO PEOPLE...

...*DIED* IN THE PROCESS?

"RESOURCES WOULD BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED.

"BOTH ENERGY AND FOOD.

"THEY WOULD BE SUPPLIED MORE... FAIRLY.

"IF WE DIVIDE A SLICE OF BREAD AMONG TEN PEOPLE...IN THE END, TEN PEOPLE STARVE.

"SO THE ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE GREATEST ABILITIES SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ALL THE BREAD.

"THEN PERHAPS ONLY NINE WILL DIE."

N-NAOZUMI!

B-BUT... THAT ISN'T *HUMANE!*

"YOU'RE ONLY ABLE TO SAY THAT, TEACHER...

"...BECAUSE YOU'RE LIVING A LIFESTYLE WHERE YOU CAN GO TO A STORE AND BUY FOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT."

"RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH TO GIVE THEM TO THE FOOLISH AND UNTHINKING, THE NON-SELF-AWARE."

BUT WE ALL HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO LIVE, DON'T WE?

THAT IS A COMMON MISCON-CEPTION.

RIGHTS ARE INHERENT TO AN INDIVIDUAL ACCORDING TO HIS OR HER ABILITIES.

"FAIRNESS" DOESN'T MEAN GIVING EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL INDIVIDUALS, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR ABILITIES MAY BE.

FROM SUCH FOOLISH MISUNDER-STANDINGS COME STUPID IDEAS SUCH AS...

"MEN AND WOMEN ARE EQUAL."

HOW CAN THEY BE EQUAL, WHEN THEY'RE BORN WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES?

A WOMAN SHOULD RECEIVE HER RIGHTS ACCORDING TO HER ABILITIES AS A WOMAN.

THUS...

...*ALL* INDIVIDUALS SHOULD RECEIVE THEIR RIGHTS ACCORDING TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES.

2

THAT'S A FAIR SOCIETY.

YOU MEAN THE INCA-PABLE ONES...

...DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE?

INDEED. THAT WOULD FURTHER REFINE THE HUMAN RACE.

BUT WE'D LOSE DIVERSITY AND BECOME MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO EXTERNAL DISTURBANCES!

PERHAPS. BUT THAT IS STILL BETTER THAN...

...ALL TEN DYING.

ARE YOU GOING TO STRIVE FOR SUCH A SOCIETY, NAOZUMI?

NO. I'M ONLY KID-DING.

IT'S JUST A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT.

BUT WHAT IF YOU HAD THE POWER?

"THAT IS AN UNREALISTIC FANTASY.

"LOGICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE."

LOGICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

I MEAN, I UNDER-STAND HIS IDEALS.

A CLASS SOCIETY BASED UPON ONE'S ABILITIES?

YEAH, THAT MAKES SENSE.

BUT IT'S UNREAL-ISTIC, ISN'T IT?

WHO WOULD GRADE EVERYONE'S ABILITIES? AND ON WHAT BASIS?

I WILL. ON *MY* BASIS.

WHAT, ALL SIX *BILLION?* THINK A BIT BEFORE YOU SPEAK.

BESIDES, YOU'D BE *TOTALLY* BIASED.

HEH... COMPARED TO THAT, EVEN KOMORI'S THINKING WAS MORE REALISTIC.

THEIR *NATURE'S* WHAT MATTERS.

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT NAOZUMI IS PLANNING?

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HIM SO WELL.

THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY ONE WAY...

...TO REALLY MAKE IT HAPPEN.

SELECTION FOR THE *MASTER RACE*...

...ISN'T IT?

BUT I THINK THAT'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT SUDO'S THINKING.

TOTALI-TARIANISM, YES, BUT NOT A NIETZSCHEIAN SOCIETY.

SO WHAT *IS* HE THINKING?

I DON'T REALLY CARE.

THE FACT IS, THINGS ARE A DISASTER THE WAY THEY ARE. SO, AS LONG AS THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE REGARDLESS...


I'M FOLLOW-ING...
...NAOZUMI SUDO.



From a dying planet shall come the children of light...

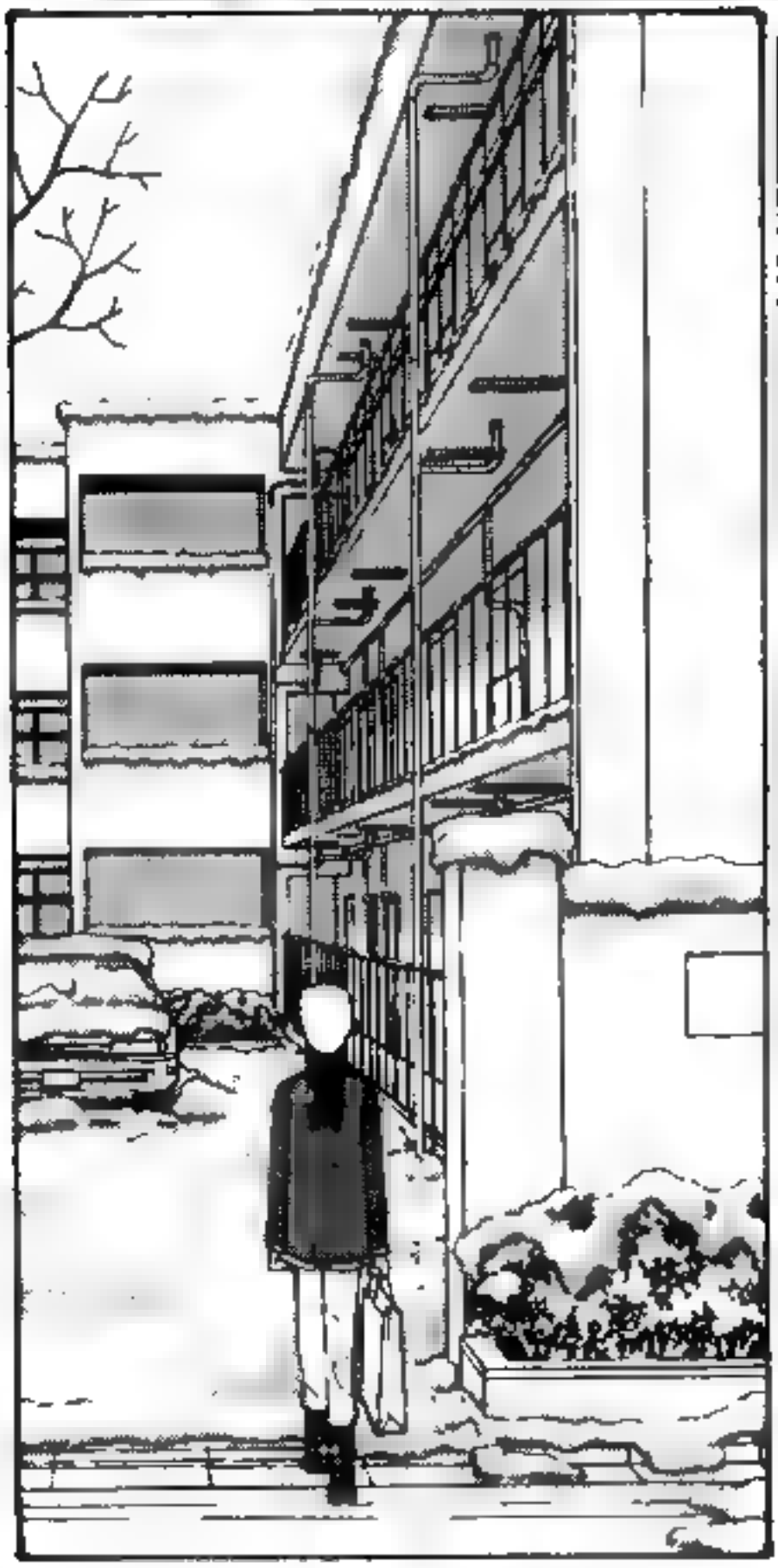
shadow star

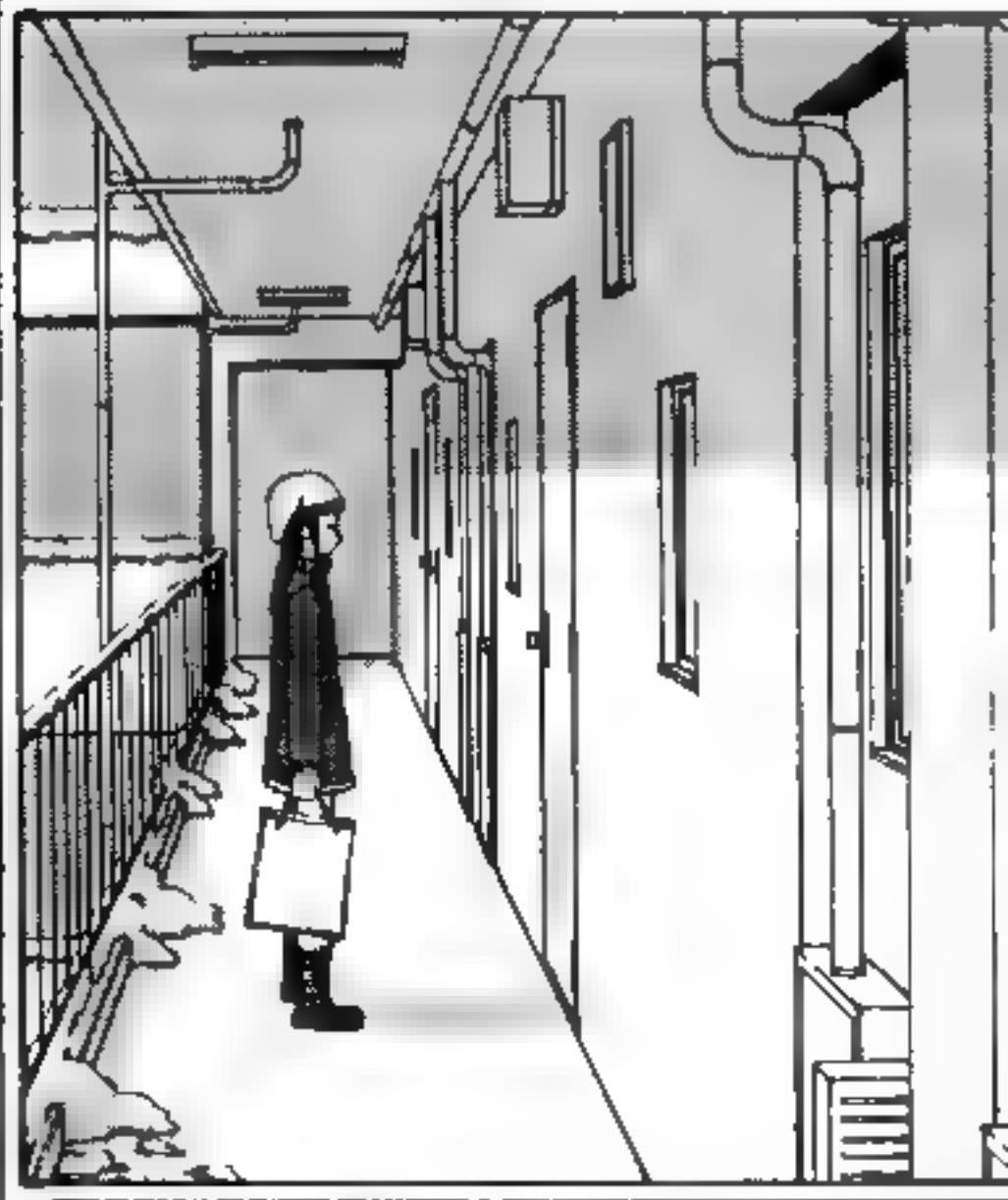
NORIO KOGA'S BEDROOM

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH











AH... "NORIRIN" ...!

COME IN, COME IN!

IT'S FREEZING OUT THERE.

COFFEE OKAY...?

NO, THANKS... I CAN'T STAY LONG.

YOU *NEVER* HAVE TIME ANY-MORE!

COME ON...*STAY* FOR A CHANGE.

ARE YOU *ALWAYS* OVER AT THAT PLACE THESE DAYS?

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL? YOU'VE GOT EXAMS COMING UP SOON, RIGHT?

COME ON. SCHOOL'S COMPLETELY MEANING-LESS.

I CAN LEARN WHAT I *REALLY* NEED ON MY OWN.

I THINK THERE'S MORE TO LEARN AT SCHOOL THAN WHAT'S IN THE TEXTBOOKS, YOU KNOW?

WELL, LOOK WHO'S TALKING... MISS DROP-OUT!

HA, HA!

BUT... I STILL VALUE MY FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL. FRIENDS *MATTER.*

HERE YOU GO.

AH, THANK YOU. I WAS RUNNING A BIT SHORT.

UM... SO... HOW IS HE?

SAME OLD GUY, SAME OLD JOB.

WELL, KEEP AN EYE ON HIM SO HE DOESN'T GET INTO *REAL* TROUBLE, OKAY?

ME? NOT MY PROBLEM. HE *NEEDS* HIS ASS KICKED ONCE IN A WHILE.

OOH, YES! THEN BRING HIM HERE, AND I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.

YEAH, IF HE'S STILL *ALIVE.*

mgk

YES, YES!

waah!

waah!

TIME FOR LITTLE BABY'S MILK?

OKAAAY, TUMMY FULL, ISSSN'T IT?

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO SLEE-EEP.

WAAH!

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

OH, RIGHT! YOU WANT *THAT.*





YOU KNOW, NORIO... THIS THING YOU MADE?

IT'S HIS *FAVORITE.*

AS LONG AS I'M HOLDING IT, HE NEVER LOOKS AT ME... JUST AT *IT*.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO UGLY!

HA HA... BREAKS MY HEART!

NORIO? DO YOU...

...STILL HATE *PEOPLE*?

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU'RE ONLY PRE-TENDING...

...AREN'T YOU, "NORIRIN" ...?

OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE GALLERY SHOWS PLANNED? YOU WERE GETTING SUCH RAVE REVIEWS--

NOTHING PLANNED. I DON'T REALLY CARE ANY MORE.

NORIO... DO YOU PLAN TO STAY WITH HIM FOREVER?

IT'LL ONLY *HURT*, YOU KNOW?

YES. BUT UNLIKE YOU...

...I CAN'T BEAR CHILDREN.

From a dying planet shall come the children of light...

shadow star

影なる星雫たる子



COME ON, "DADDY."

YOU GONNA DO IT OR NOT...? I'M WAIIIITING!

UH...

Y-YES.

OKAY, THEN--

HUH?

HEY, GEEZER.

WHACHOO DOIN' TO MY BITCH?

HUH, AH...?!

UM... ...?

FIGURE IT, DUDE, YOU JUST SCREWED UP.

GIMME ONE OF YOUR BUSINESS CARDS.

SORRY, I AIN'T GOT ONE MYSELF.

WOW, BIG NAME COMPANY.

"REINSUR-ANCE"... WHAT'S THAT SHIT?

GIMME YOUR WALLET, DUDE.

HEY, THIS ALL YOU GOT? THAT AIN'T GONNA--

KCHAK

HUH ...?

LOOKS LIKE GOOD TIMING.

LET ME COVER FOR THE GENTLE-MAN.

WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU?!*

UH...A WALKING WALLET?

DON'T GIMME THAT SHIT! I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!

OKAY, CARRY ON, SIR. I CAN WAIT.

UH... OKAY.

HUH? WAIT... YOU'RE *KIDDING*, RIGHT!?

NO WAY! HELP! **NO!!**

SMAK

STOP ACTING LIKE A SPOILED BRAT.

YOU AGREED TO DO THIS... NOW YOU PAY THE PRICE.

NOW, THEN, SIR... PLEASE DON'T MIND ME.

I'LL TAKE THEM IN THE OTHER ROOM AND WAIT.

OKAY, LET'S SEE...

WHOO

NOOO!

WOW ...!

**!

WHMP

AAGH! HELP!

HOTEL β

GET DRESSED. LET'S GO...

...MISS KAORI ITO.

GO WHERE? HEY...!

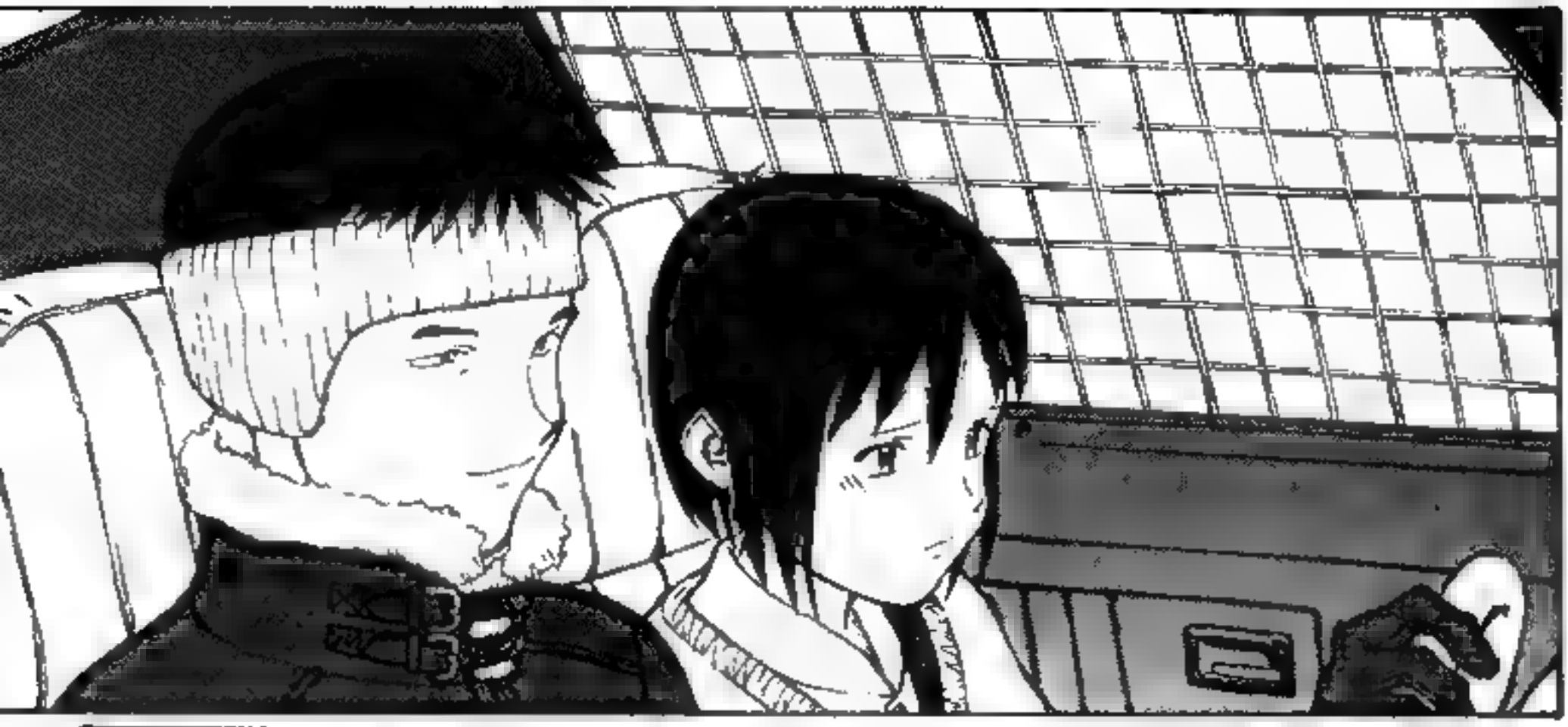
YOU...

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY REAL NAME...?

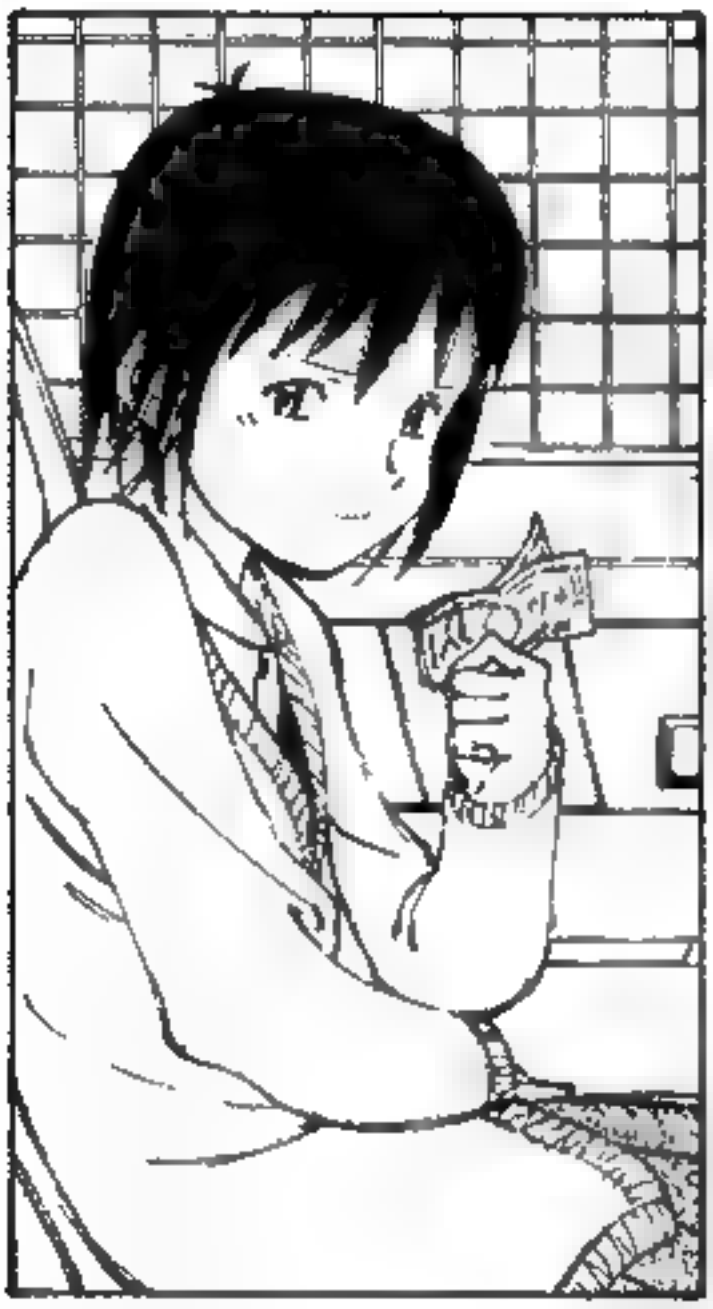
YOUR PARENTS HIRED ME TO BRING YOU BACK.

SO THIS IS THE END OF YOUR ADVENTURES IN *TOKYO WONDER-LAND*, LITTLE ALICE.

VRMBBBBB




TRAFFIC'S NOT TOO BAD... SHOULD ONLY TAKE ABOUT FOUR HOURS.
LOOKS LIKE SNOW...
OH, YEAH-- HERE'S YOUR TAKE.




DO YOU *ALWAYS* GO AROUND DOING STUFF LIKE THIS?


NOT EXACTLY... NOT MUCH MONEY IN SHUTTING DOWN THIS SORT OF BLACKMAIL SCAM.
BUT SEARCHING FOR RUNAWAY KIDS LIKE YOU MAKES [redacted] CASH.
JUST SHOWS HOW EVEN *STUPID* GIRLS ARE WORTH SOMETHING... AT LEAST TO THEIR *PARENTS.*

SHOVE IT UP YOUR ASS.

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?

SURE. WHAT ARE THOSE GUYS GONNA DO? GO TO THE POLICE?

I'VE DONE THIS A LOT. NEVER HAD ANY PROBLEMS.

UM... HOW MUCH DID YOU GET FROM MY PARENTS?

TWO MILLION YEN* FOR "BRINGING YOU BACK ALIVE."

I'LL JUST RUN AWAY AGAIN, YOU KNOW!

COOL. ANOTHER TWO MIL.

THANKS, KID.

.....

WOW, WHAT A BASTARD!

*ABOUT ¥18,500

THIS WHOLE THING MAKES ME FEEL... *STUPID.*

VRMBBB

HEY, CLOSE THIS WINDOW.

I'M *FREEZING!*

SORRY, NO GLASS.

NICE GUY... *YOU'RE* ALL WARM AND COZY!

D-DON'T YOU HAVE... SOMETHING I CAN WEAR?

WHY THE HELL WOULD I?

snpp

YOU SHOULD BE *NICE* TO ME!!

GIMME ONE REASON *WHY!*

DON'T THINK *EVERYBODY'LL* TREAT YOU NICE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A *GIRL.*

VRMMMM

VRMBB

UM... .....

DRIVE INN IZUMI

W-WILL YOU L-LEND ME YOUR J-JACKET...

FOR *THIS*...?

ONLY IF WE TRADE OFF EVERY THIRTY MINUTES.

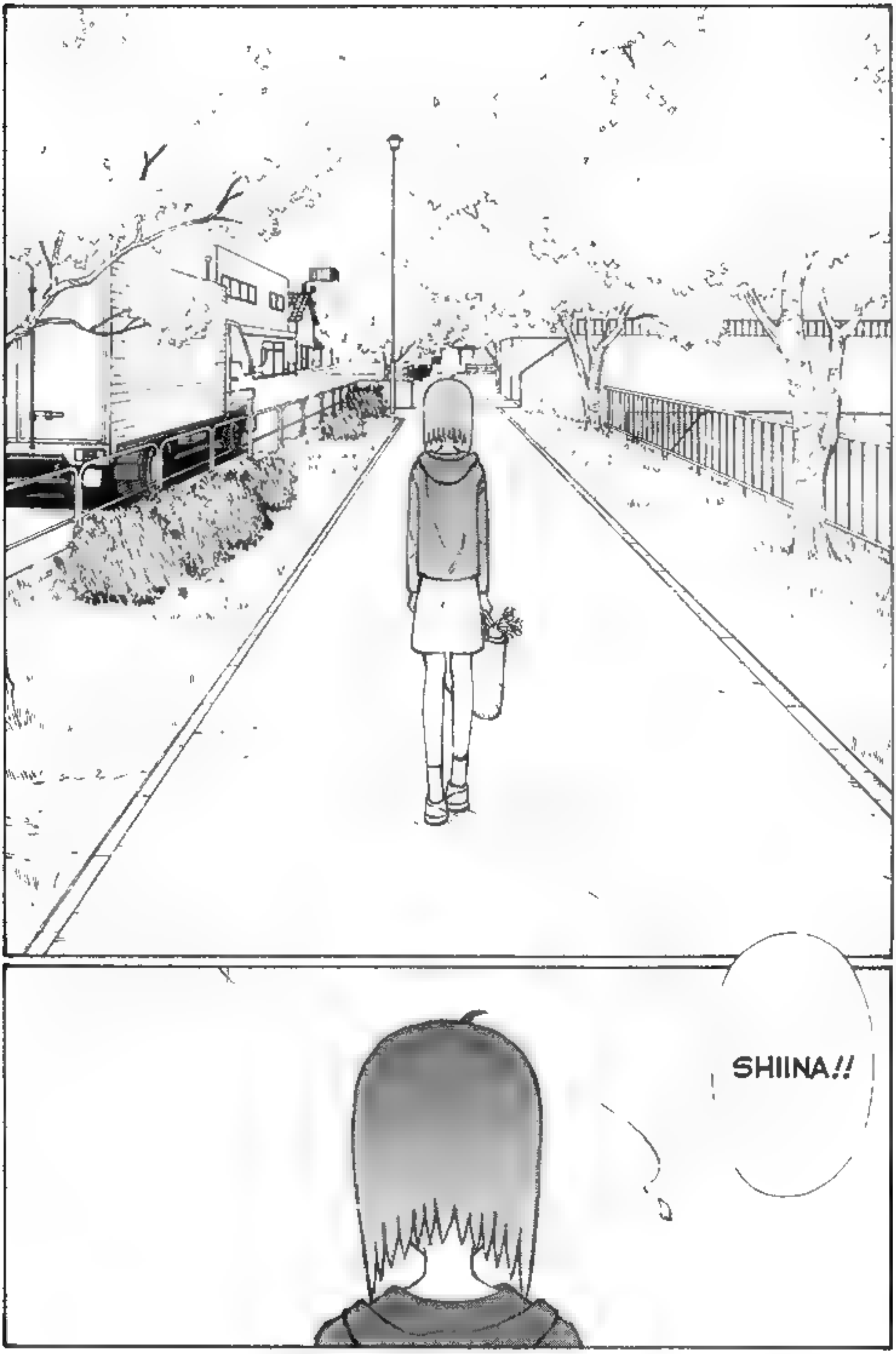
THAT A DEAL...?



SPRING

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH




SHIINA!!



DAD...!

BACK ALREADY ...?

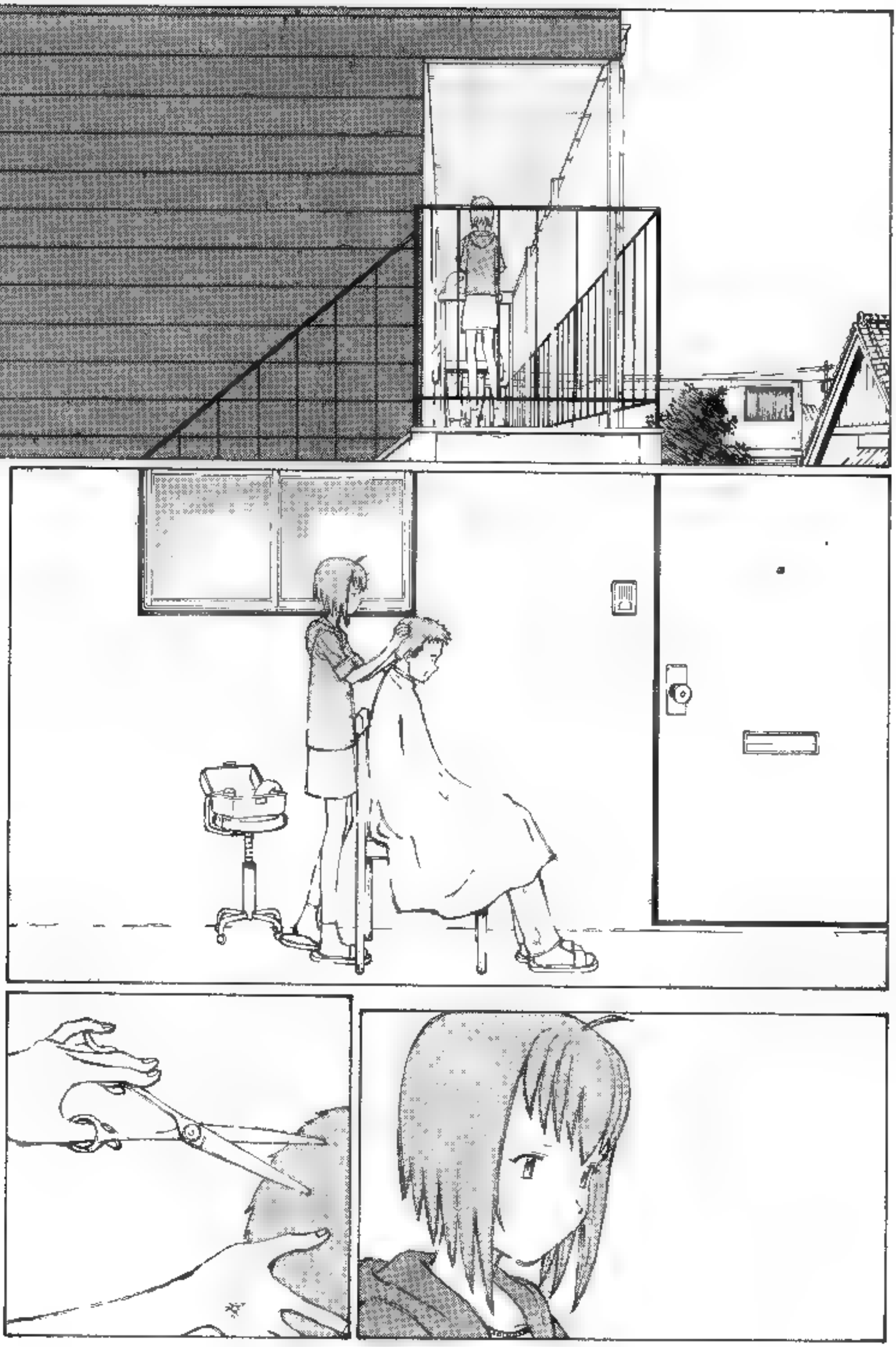
YOU DONE SHOPPING?

YEAH, I WAS ON MY WAY HOME.

DAD, YOUR HAIR'S GETTING TOO LONG.

BARBER SHOP TIME...?


STURGES



WANNA TRY CUTTING IT REALLY SHORT?

HOW COME?

'CAUSE IT'S... SPRING TIME!

HUH...?

WELL, OKAY... WHAT-EVER.

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.

CAN I HAVE A SMOKE?

NO! HOLD ON 'TIL I FINISH.

BY THE WAY... THAT BACK-PACK.

HUH?

"THE ONE YOU GOT ON THE ISLAND.

"YOUR *FAVORITE.*"

UM...I DON'T...

THE ONE WITH THE FUNNY FACE...?

HUH?

OH, *THAT* BACK-PACK!

I, UH, GAVE IT TO A FRIEND.

IT'S TOO CHILDISH FOR ME, NOW.

'CAUSE... I MEAN...

I'M GOING INTO JUNIOR HIGH TOMORROW, RIGHT?

YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

AND... UM...

ARE YOU *SURE* YOU WON'T BE CALLED IN TO WORK TOMORROW?

OF COURSE!

OKAY!

TA-DAA!

CAN YOU WAIT A LITTLE FOR DINNER?

OH, SURE. DON'T RUSH.






DAD, CAN YOU DO THE DISHES TODAY?

I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANNA SHOW YOU, BUT IT NEEDS A BIT OF...UM... *PREPARATION.*

DON'T COME IN HERE, OKAY?

OKAY, OKAY!

THERE. FINISHED.

SHIINA ...?

I WENT AND PICKED IT UP TODAY. SO... HOW DO I LOOK?

I WANTED YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO SEE.

UH... I...

D-DOES IT LOOK KINDA *DUMB?*

OH, NO! YOU LOOK GOOD!

IT LOOKS *PERFECT* ON YOU.

REALLY ...?

REALLY TRULY.

THAT UNIFORM REALLY MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE... A GIRL.

IT'S LIKE, YOU'RE NOT THE USUAL SHIINA.

YEAH, IT'S SORT OF EMBAR-RASSING.

HA HA HA!

HA HA! ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR *YOU*, AS WELL.

OH YEAH? WHAT?

IT'S OUTSIDE. C'MON!

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER IT EARLIER, BUT...

OKAY, HERE WE GO.

CONGRATU-
LATIONS
ON
ENTERING
BANDA
ACADEMY,
SHIINA.

AH!

WOOOOW!!

THIS IS FOR *ME*?! IT'S REALLY *MINE*?!

ALL YOURS.

YOU ALWAYS WANTED YOUR OWN, DIDN'T YOU...?

CAN I RIDE IT NOW?!

SURE, BUT--

--SHOULDN'T YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES?

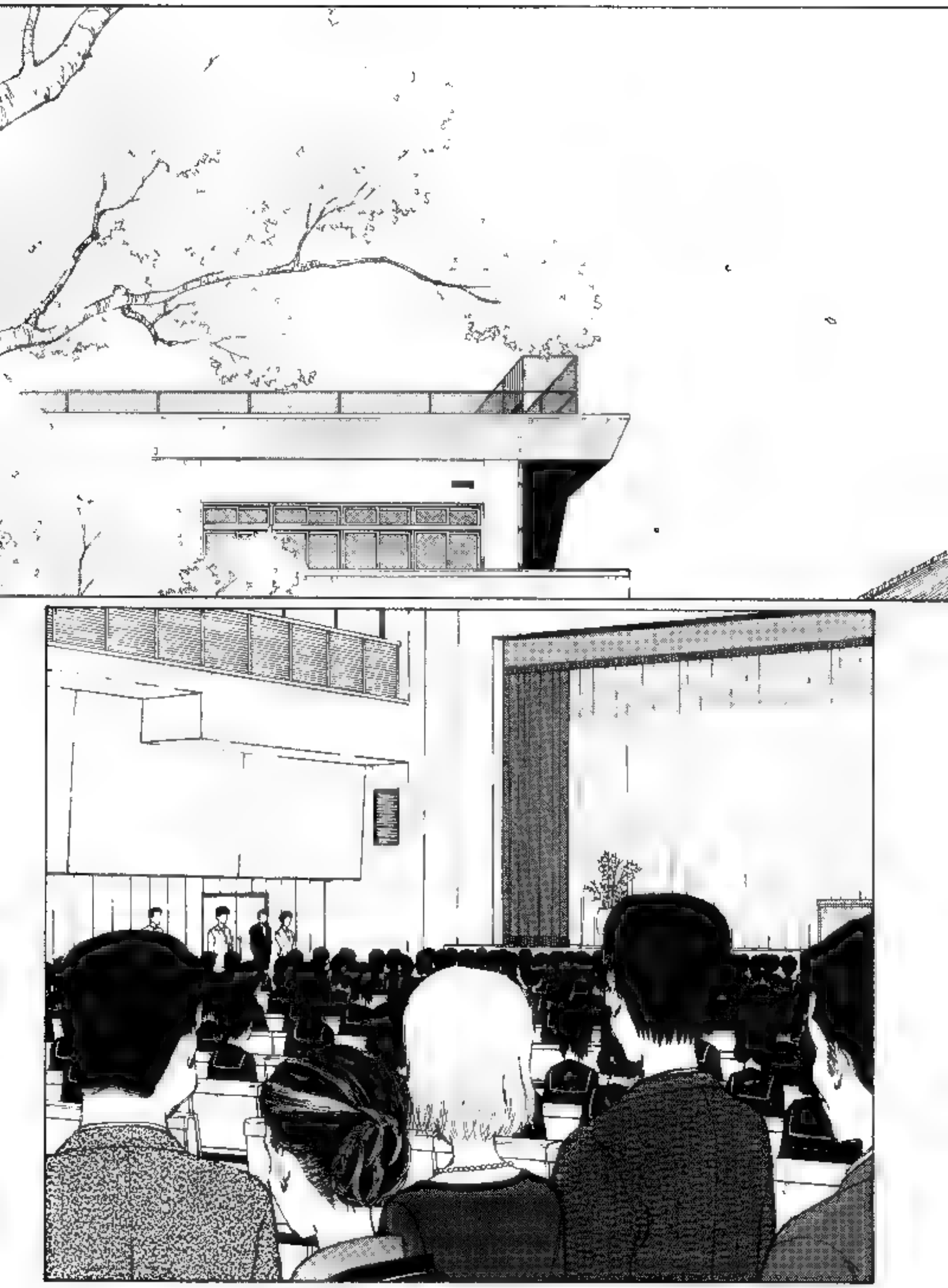
YEAH! RIGHT! BACK IN A SEC, DADDY!

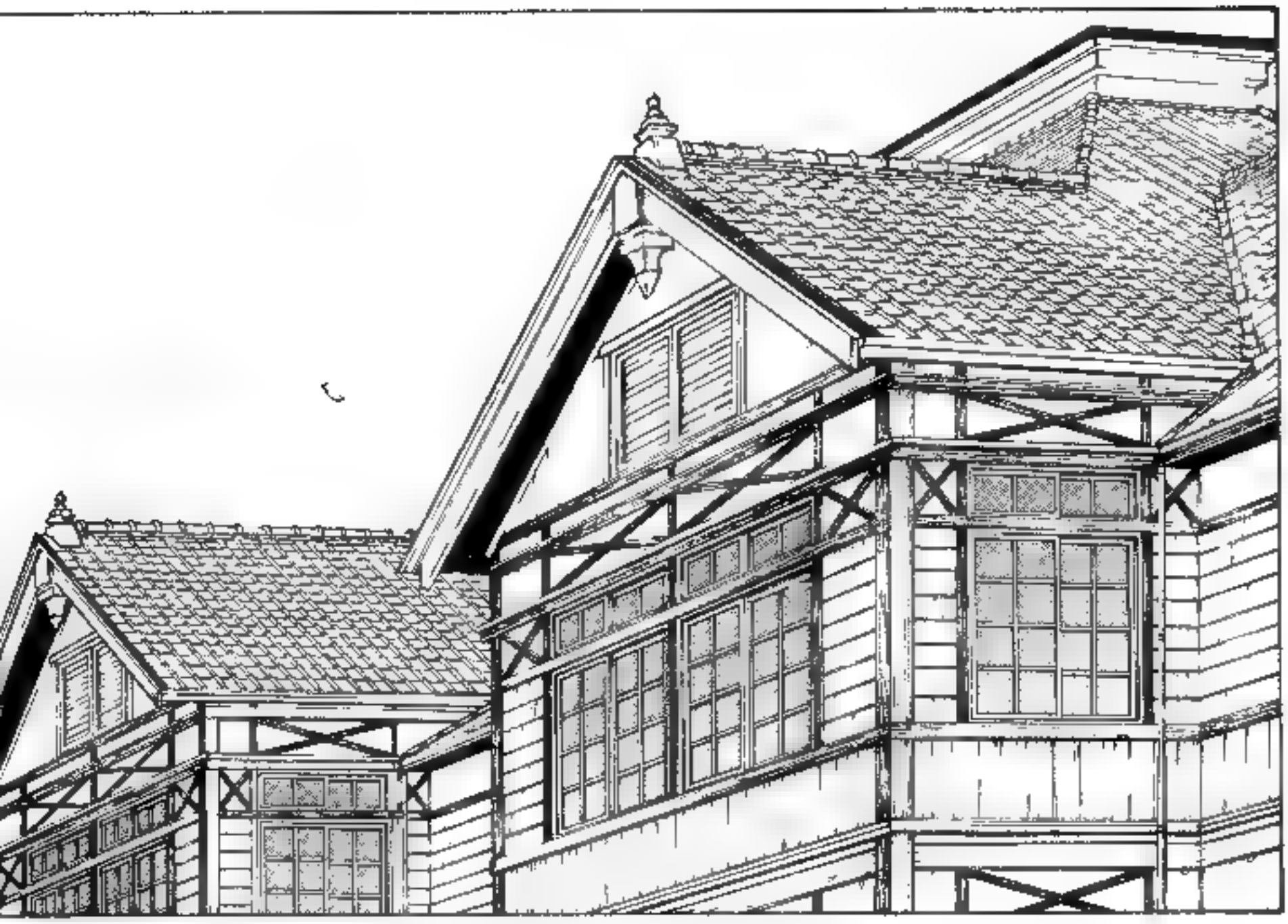
HEH... *THAT'S* MORE LIKE MY DAUGHTER.

DONE! LET'S GO!!

=hahh=

=hpp=

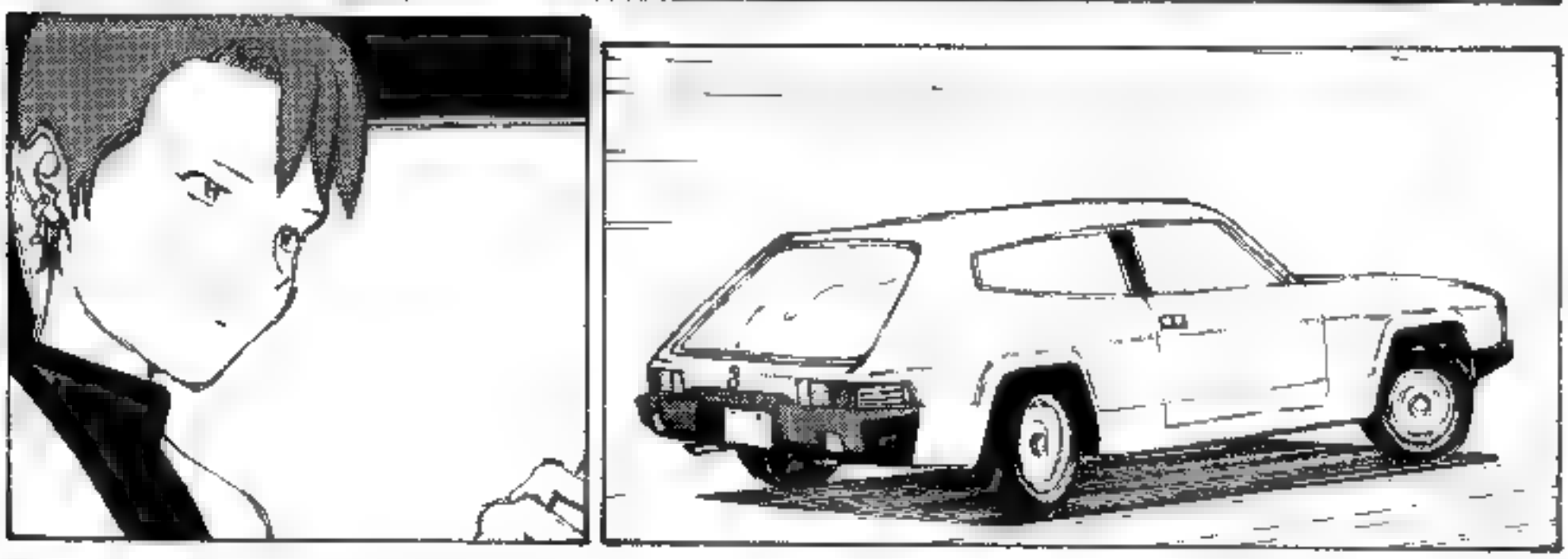


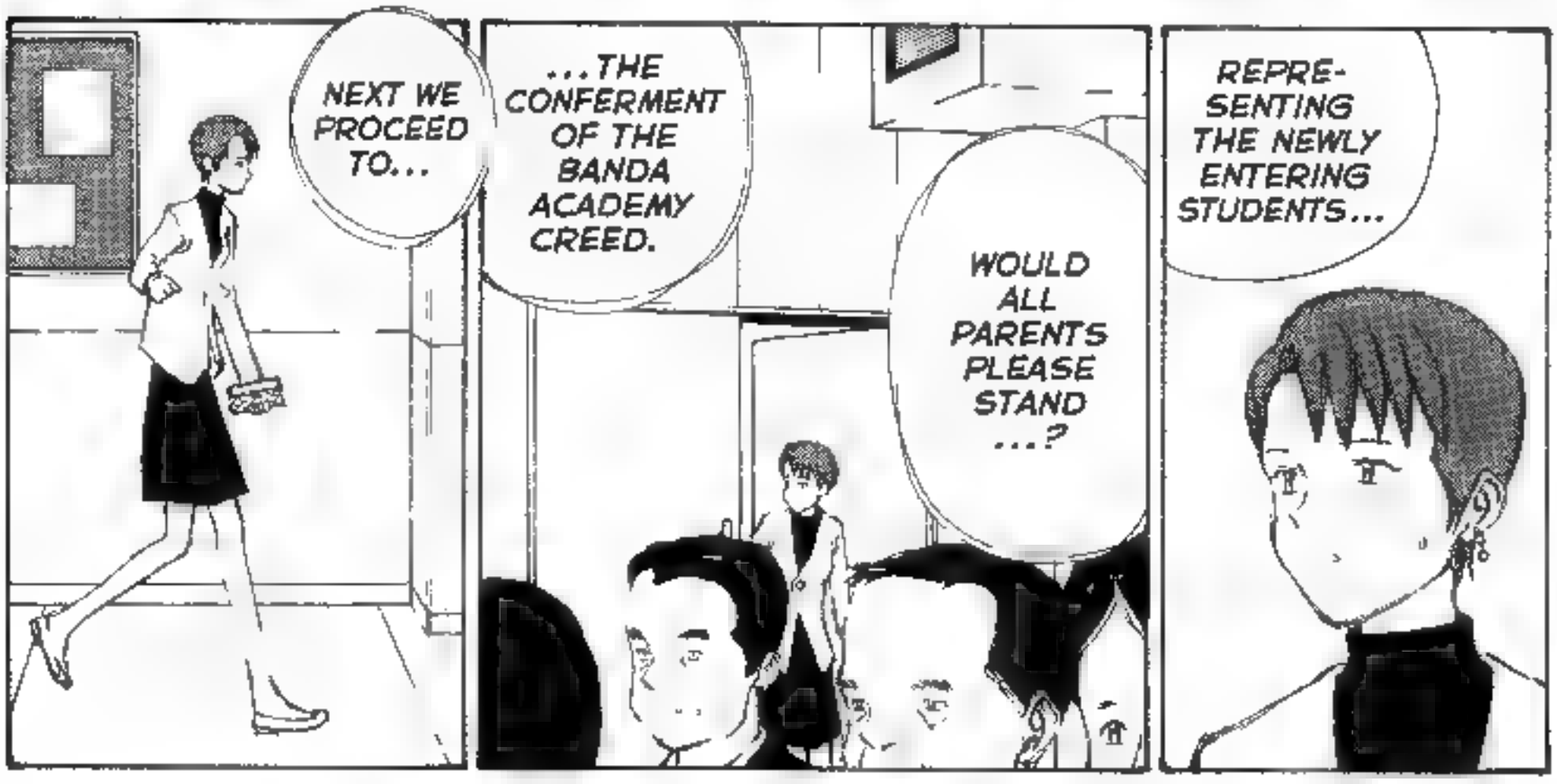




SIGN: BANDA ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENTRANCE CEREMONY


TRIBE



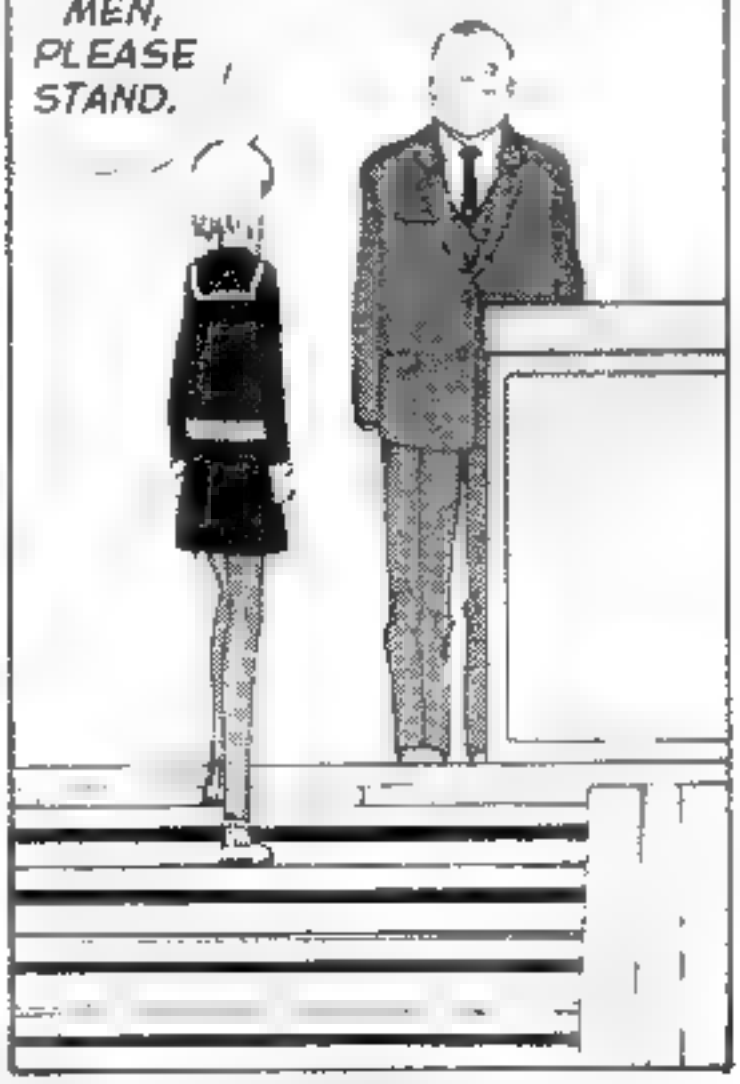

NEXT WE PROCEED TO...
...THE CONFERMENT OF THE BANDA ACADEMY CREED.
WOULD ALL PARENTS PLEASE STAND ...?
REPRE-SENTING THE NEWLY ENTERING STUDENTS...

...IS SHIINA TAMAI.

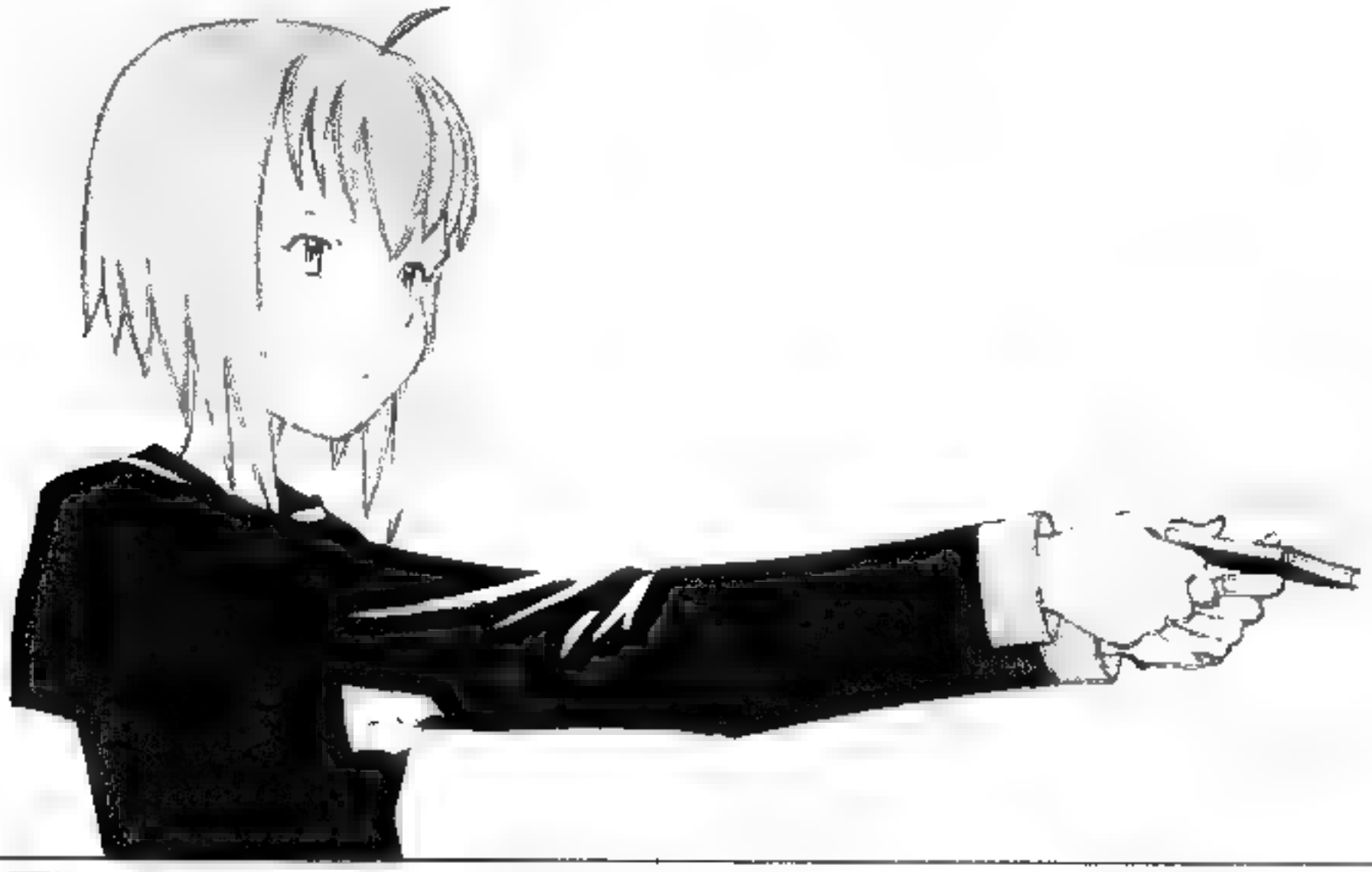
YES, SIR!



NOW... FRESH-MEN, PLEASE STAND.







FTT

AH--

EEK!!

FWOO

WHMP

AHH...

OWWW!

=mmph=

HA HA HA HA!!

ARE YOU OKAY?

GOOD ONE!

FOLLOWING THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY, STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THEIR CLASSROOMS AND...

...RECEIVE THEIR SCHEDULE. THEN THEY WILL PROCEED--

THAT GIRL OF OURS...

SIGHH

THE WHOLE THING CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE.

WHEN SHE ASKED...I MEAN, THE ENTRANCE FEE, TUITION, AND EVERYTHING.

AND BESIDES THAT...

...I REALLY DIDN'T THINK SHE'D PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

I KEPT WONDERING HOW I WAS GOING TO BREAK IT TO HER... WHAT I COULD DO OR SAY. SHE WAS WORKING SO HARD, STUDYING EVERY DAY...

THAT'S WHY I ORDERED THE BIKE

"IN JUST THREE MONTHS...

"AMAZING. SHE WAS JUST *AMAZING!*"

I NEVER GUESSED SHE'D INHERITED YOUR *BRAINS*, AS WELL.

JUST THINK... FROM NEARLY FAILING...

...TO AN HONORS STUDENT WITH A FULL SCHOLAR-SHIP!

FUNNY THING IS... IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE'S *REALLY* CHANGED THAT MUCH, DOES IT?

HA HA! NO

AND HOW ABOUT YOU?

HOW'S YOUR ARM?

OH, THAT AGAIN.

IT'S FINE. REALLY.

BECAUSE THAT MONSTER THING...

...IT WENT EASY ON ME.

I KNOW. I READ YOUR REPORT.

IT WAS OF GREAT USE. THANKS.

BUT STILL... WHY DID YOU THINK IT DIDN'T INTEND...

...TO *KILL* YOU?

I WONDER... HARD TO SAY. IT JUST *FELT* THAT WAY.

IT SEEMED LIKE *IT* WAS MORE AFRAID THAN ME.

THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT THING?

I CAN'T TELL YOU, OF COURSE.

YOU'VE SURE HAD A ROUGH YEAR, HAVEN'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER THIS?

I DROVE. DO YOU WANT A RIDE?

NO, I'LL WAIT FOR SHIINA.

MISONO... DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HER?

I DON'T THINK I SHOULD, ON A DAY LIKE THIS... SHOULD I?

RIGHT NOW... ....

I'M...I'M REGRETTING THAT I LEFT YOU. JUST A LITTLE.

LOOK AFTER SHIINA, OKAY?

FOR BOTH OF US.

WELL... *BYE,* THEN.

HEY, YOU!! THIS IS A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS!!

=kop!=

I THINK.

YOU BRAT!

SHEESH!

SHALL WE HEAD HOME, THEN?

HUH... THIS REALLY *IS* AN UPPER-CLASS SCHOOL.

LOOK AT ALL THESE EXPENSIVE CARS.

KCHAK

WELL... ALWAYS AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE, I GUESS.

DAD, WAIT HERE A SEC.

YO...

CONGRATU-LATIONS.

TH-THANK YOU.

UM... THE OTHER DAY...

AH, YES.

YOU STILL THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE POLICE?

I...I DON'T KNOW...

SO THAT'S YOUR FATHER, HUH?

WELL, LOOKS LIKE HE'S WAITING.

I JUST CAME TO SAY CONGRATU-LATIONS, ANYWAY.

YOU CAME JUST FOR *THAT?*

YEAH.

YOU KNOW... IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU...

...THAT BANDA UNIFORM.

NOW... ONCE YOU'RE IN, TRY TO GET TO KNOW A FEW OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS.

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO OUT WITH ONE OF THOSE "BANDA BABES!"

BRING THEM BY MY PLACE ANYTIME, OKAY? *SEE YA!*

THAT GUY'S A FRIEND OF YOURS...?

THAT IDIOT?!

"FRIEND" ...? GIMME A BREAK!

OH, YEAH?

HELLO,
SHIINA.

WHA...? UH...NAOZUMI...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M ESCORTING AN ACQUAINT-ANCE.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO THIS SCHOOL, SHIINA?

WANT ME TO GO ON AHEAD?

HUH? NO, NO... I'M COMING.

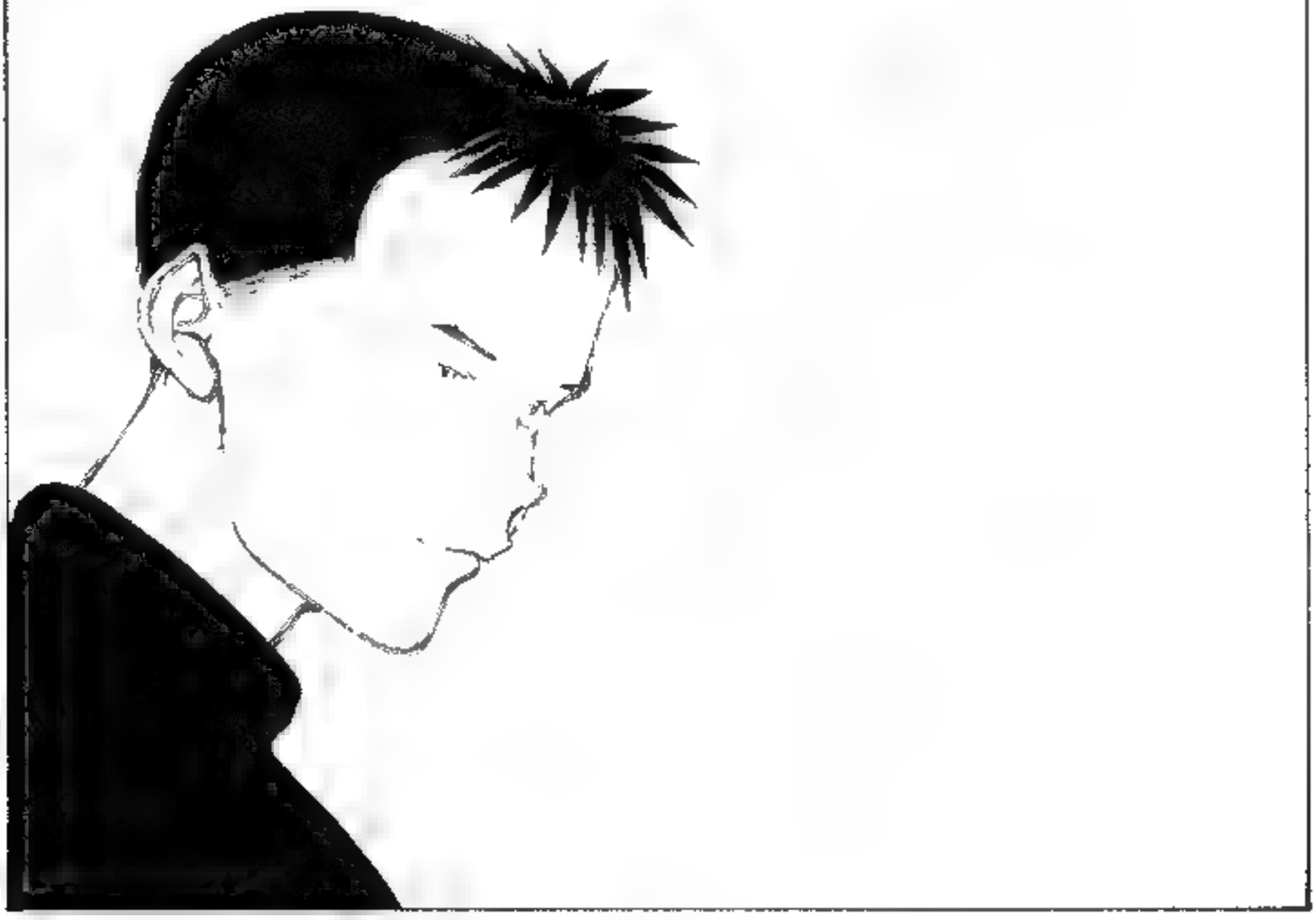
SEE YOU, THEN.

UH, YEAH.

LET'S GO, DAD.

OKAY.

HMM...





BTAM

BRMBB

VRMBB

VRAMAMAMA

THANK YOU!

BRR!

SPRING ISN'T QUITE HERE, YET!

UM...

AT THE ENTRANCE CERE-MONY...

HM?

AW, NOTHING.

IT'S OKAY. NEVER MIND.

IF YOU'RE COLD, I'LL HURRY AND FILL THE BATHTUB.

OH, I CAN DO THAT!

NO, NO!

SIT DOWN AND RELAX.

HEY, DADDY! LET'S TAKE A BATH TOGETHER, LIKE WE USED TO.

SHIINA... OUR TUB'S TOO SMALL.

AND... THOSE DAYS ARE OVER. SORRY.

B-BUT TODAY...

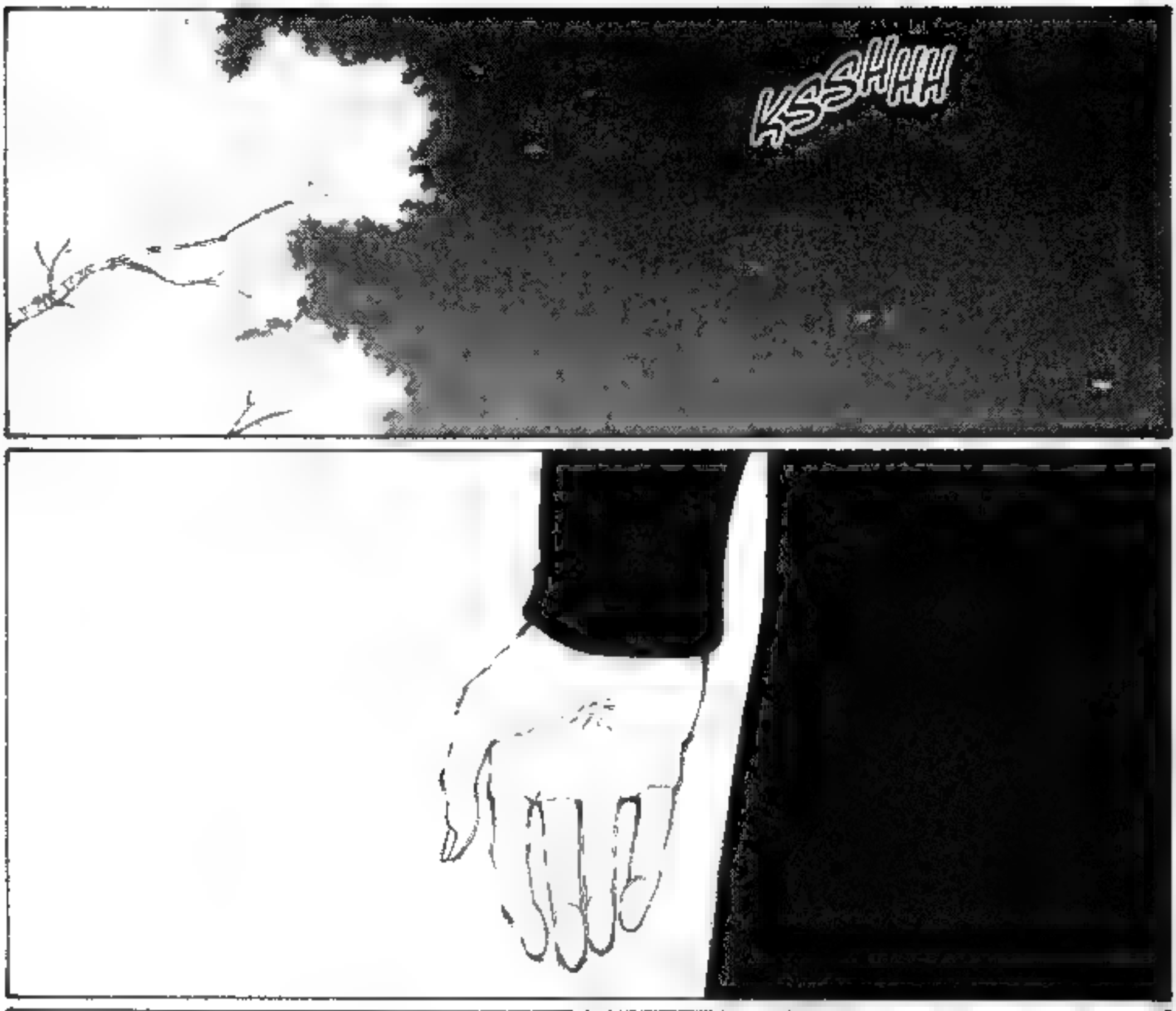
...I WANTED TO BE YOUR LITTLE SHIINA... JUST ONE LAST TIME.

I'M SORRY. YOU'RE A *BIG GIRL,* NOW.

SHIINA... YOU'VE HAD A HARD YEAR... AND YOU'VE DONE SO WELL.

I'M PROUD OF YOU.


AND... DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HIROKO.*
I'M SURE THEY'LL FIND HER, AND SHE'LL BE OKAY.


KSSHHH



"THE WARNING WAS AN ALL-TOO-COMMON INCIDENT..."

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SCHOOL ANYMORE, MISS KURI.

I'M *NOT* INTERESTED IN SCHOOL.

HUMANS ...?

YES.

REAL PEOPLE. WITHOUT THE "FILTERS."

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY *NOW...*

BECAUSE IT IS... ...*NOW.*

I WON'T BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THIS AGAIN *AFTER-WARDS.*

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS PARTICULAR SCHOOL?

THERE'S A GIRL HERE... WHO INTERESTS ME.

NOT *THAT* FEMALE?

NO, NOT SATOMI.

SOMEONE IN THE SAME GRADE AS YOU.

HAW
HAW
HAW

SPLSHH

HOW ABOUT THAT KIND OF HUMAN?

I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH.

SIGHH

HELLO.

YOU KIDS JUST THREW GARBAGE INTO THE RIVER, DIDN'T YOU?

PLEASE GO PICK IT UP.

HEY, *SCREW* YOU, MAN!

YOU DON'T LIKE IT, *YOU* GO GET IT, DIPSHIT!!

OOOHH, HEY! IT'S A *BANDA BABE.*

LET'S BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF THIS PUSSY AND TAKE HIS GIRL-FRIEND.

LOVE THOSE RED STOCKINGS! YOWWW!!

SPAK

WHA--

AUUGH!!

OH *SHIT!* OH *MAN!*

PLEASE GO PICK IT UP.

YOU--

YOU FRIGGIN' *SHOT* ME, MAN! HOW CAN I--

BKAM

BKAM

I...
I'LL GO
G-GET
IT!!

H-HERE... I... I GOT IT OUT.

YOU CAN TAKE IT TO A GARBAGE CAN LATER.

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR *DAMAGE*, DUDE?! ALL WE DID WAS--

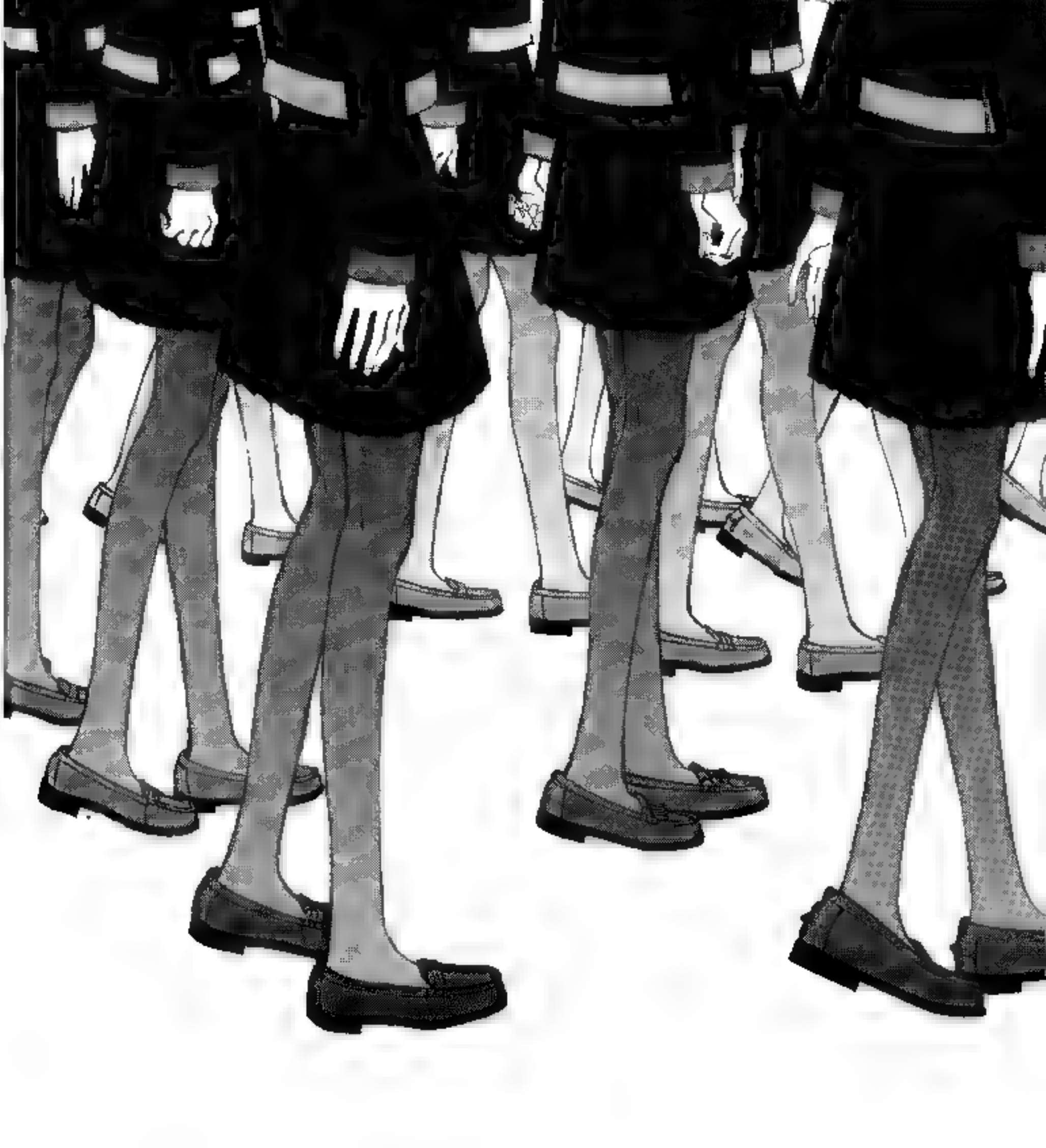
BKAM BKAM

I'LL LEAVE YOU AS A WITNESS.

WEEOOOUUU

BUT EVENTUAL-LY...

...I'LL KILL *YOU*, TOO.



THE GARDEN OF OSTENTATION

HEY, DID YOU HEAR?

HEAR WHAT?

GUESS WHAT WE GOT IN THIS YEAR'S FROSHES!

A SCHOLAR-SHIP STUDENT!!

NO WAY!!

WE HAVE *SCHOLAR-SHIPS* AT BANDA?!

HEE HEE HEE!

NOT LIKE *WE* NEED ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

I HEARD THEY HAVEN'T HAD ONE SINCE, LIKE, *FOURTEEN YEARS* AGO!

YEAH, YOU GOTTA SCORE PERFECT IN *EVERY* SUBJECT.

WHICH CLASS IS SHE IN?

WAIT A SEC...SHE GOT A PERFECT SCORE ON *OUR* ENTRY EXAM?!

"CHERRY BLOSSOM."

LET'S SNEAK UP THERE AND CHECK HER OUT.

AH!

THERE SHE IS! THAT'S HER IN THE MIDDLE!

GEEZ, I FEEL LIKE EVERYBODY'S WATCHING ME.

"FAMOUS" ...?

THAT'S 'CAUSE THEY *ARE!* YOU'RE, LIKE, *FAMOUS,* TAMAI.

MAYBE *MORE* LIKE...

...*POP-ULAR.*

YEAH! 'CAUSE IT WAS *FUNNY* WHEN YOU FELL DOWN THE STAIRS!

HEH HEH HEH...

YEESH

IT WASN'T FUNNY *DUMB!* IT WAS FUNNY *COOL!*

YEAH! IT MADE YOU FEEL MORE LIKE ONE OF *US.*

SO TRUE! IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT, YOU'D BE LIKE...

...SOMEONE ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

HA HA... HEH.

"ABOVE THE *CLOUDS*"...?

DID YOU CHOOSE A CLUB YET?

I'M TRYING TO FIND ONE I DON'T HAVE TO ATTEND TOO OFTEN...

WHY'S THAT? YOU HAVE CRAM SCHOOL?

NO... I NEED TO MAKE SUPPER.

WHAT?!

TAMAI, YOU MAKE *DINNER* FOR YOUR FAMILY?!

WELL, UM... IT'S KIND OF LIKE MY *DUTY...*

"Cram school" is slang for after-school tutoring or private classes.

WOW... THAT'S *AMAZING.*

I *LIKE* DOING IT. HONEST.

HEY, CAN I COME OVER TO YOUR HOUSE SOMETIME?

YEAH! ME TOO, ME TOO!

WELL, OKAY.

BUT OUR PLACE IS KIND OF *SMALL.*

OH, COME ON.

HOW SMALL CAN IT BE...?

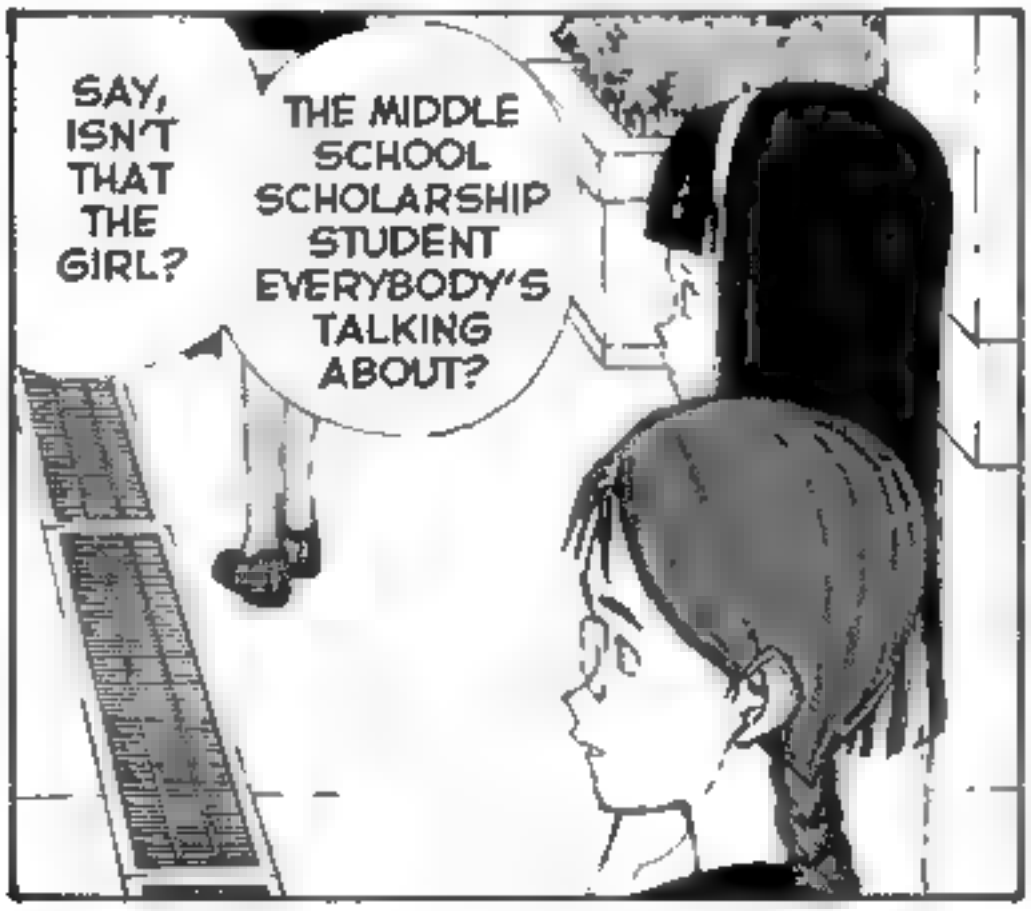
IT'S SO SMALL... YOU BUMP YOUR HEAD ON THE WALL WHEN YOU TRY TO PLAY *PRO WRESTLING* WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

HA HA HA!

TAMAI, YOU'RE *SO FUNNY!*






SAY, ISN'T THAT THE GIRL?
THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT?


JUST ANOTHER RICH "GOLDEN GIRL," DON'T YOU THINK?

THE "FLOWER" CLASS GIRLS HAVE A DIFFERENT SORT OF *FEEL* TO THEM, DON'T THEY?

IT'S LIKE... THEY'VE GOT MORE AIR TO BREATHE.

I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE...



DAMN, KAZUYUKI, *DON'T* CALL ME SO LATE.

DON'T WORRY, I'M READING THE FILE THIS TIME.

YES, YES, *ALL* OF IT!

DID NAOZUMI TELL YOU WHAT HE'S THINKING OF DOING WITH THIS GIRL?

NO? THEN I'LL JUST COME UP WITH SOMETHING MYSELF.

EXCUSE ME? OF *COURSE* I CAN!

TOMOR-ROW?

OKAY.

HUH ...?

WHAT ?!

NAOZUMI IS?!

TAMAI
...?

UM...
...?

MISS SHIINA TAMAI.

YES?

MY "GROUP" NEEDS MORE JUNIOR MEMBERS.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN IT.

HUH?

I THINK YOU'LL BE MORE USEFUL THAN THAT *KAIZUKA* GIRL I EXPECTED TO COME HERE.

WHO... WHO *ARE* YOU?

IF YOU CAN'T REMEM-BER...

...THEN MAYBE I SHOULD SLAP YOU *AGAIN.*

AH... .....

IT WAS *YOU...*

THAT *TIME...*

YOU'RE A "BEARER," AREN'T YOU?

SO... JOIN MY--


THAP

AH ...!

THERE. NOW WE'RE *EVEN.*

Y-YOU... I...I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

I'M *REALLY* GOING TO *KILL YOU!*

HUH ...?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TWO DOING?!

OZAWA!

RETURN TO YOUR CLASS-ROOM!

TAMA!! COME WITH ME!

HEH

HEH

HEH...

EADMASTER

WOW... YOU *PUNCHED* HER?

GEEZ, IT WAS JUST A *SLAP!*

A WIMPY LITTLE SLAP, TOO!

YOU HIT A *HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?*

HIGH SCHOOL...? OH, RIGHT...

HER COLLAR HAD TWO STRIPES.

IT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST *SCHOOL VIOLENCE* SINCE THE FOUNDING OF BANDA.

C'MON, YOU GUYS! GEEZ!

WHAT'S THE HEAD-MASTER'S OFFICE LIKE?

I DUNNO... NOTHING *TOO* SPECIAL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HIT A HIGH SCHOOLER.

THAT'S SO... *COOL!*

"COOL"...?

BUT COULDN'T IT CAUSE PROBLEMS? I MEAN, IF THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS DECIDE TO GO AFTER YOU...YOU KNOW.

WE HAVE TO HANG OUT TOGETHER A *LOT*... LIKE, CLUB ACTIVITIES, SCHOOL EVENTS...

I HEARD IT'S GOT REALLY NICE CARPET...

OH, YEAH! THAT'S TRUE...MY SHOES SUNK IN. IT WAS LIKE WALKING ON THE BEACH!

AH, DON'T *WORRY.*

BANDA IS *REALLY* TOUGH ON BULLYING.

YEAH, BUT DON'T YOU KNOW WHO SHE IS?

SHE'S THE TOP *"TREE"* GIRL.

HEY, TAMA!!

I HEARD YOU PUNCHED OUT A *HIGH SCHOOLER.*

IT WAS JUST A *SLAP!*

"TREE GIRL" ...?

HEY, OZAWA.

I HEARD THAT SCHOLAR-SHIP GIRL *SLAPPED* YOU.



THEY SAY YOU DIDN'T HIT HER BACK. NOT LIKE YOU, IS IT?

FEELING... *INFERIOR?*

HEH.

YOU BETTER GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT, AKIYAMA.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU LOSE A *BATTLE...* AS LONG AS YOU WIN THE *WAR.* RIGHT?

HA HA HA!

THE *WAR,* HUH? THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD. *SEE YA!*



THAT GIRL...

WHY DID SHE KNOW ABOUT HIROKO ...?

"I *MET* HER...

"WHEN THAT BOY WITH THE *SQUID...*"

CANDY SNACKS

MOTOKI DEPOT

本木

YOU'RE A "BEARER"...

...AREN'T YOU?

AH?! THEN... *SHE* HAS ONE, *TOO?*

"A *DRAGON* CHILD?!"

3 PINE

UHM... I'M LOOKING FOR MISS OZAWA...?

SATOMI OZAWA? SHE'S PROBABLY ALREADY GONE HOME.

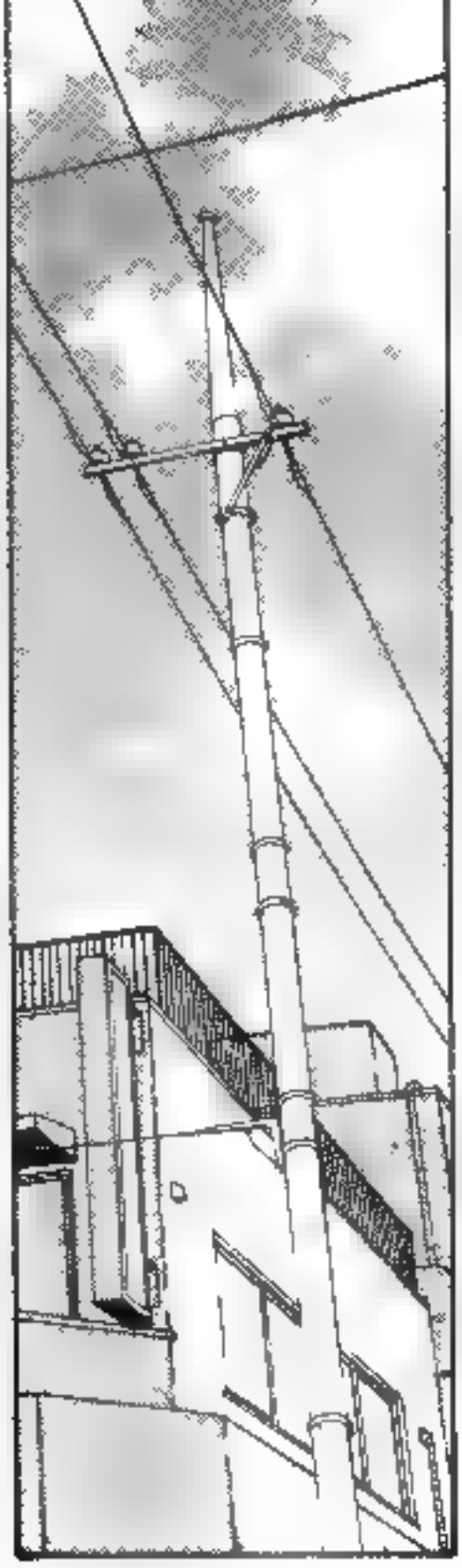
AHH, YOU'RE THE SLAPPING SCHOLAR-SHIP GIRL, AREN'T YOU?

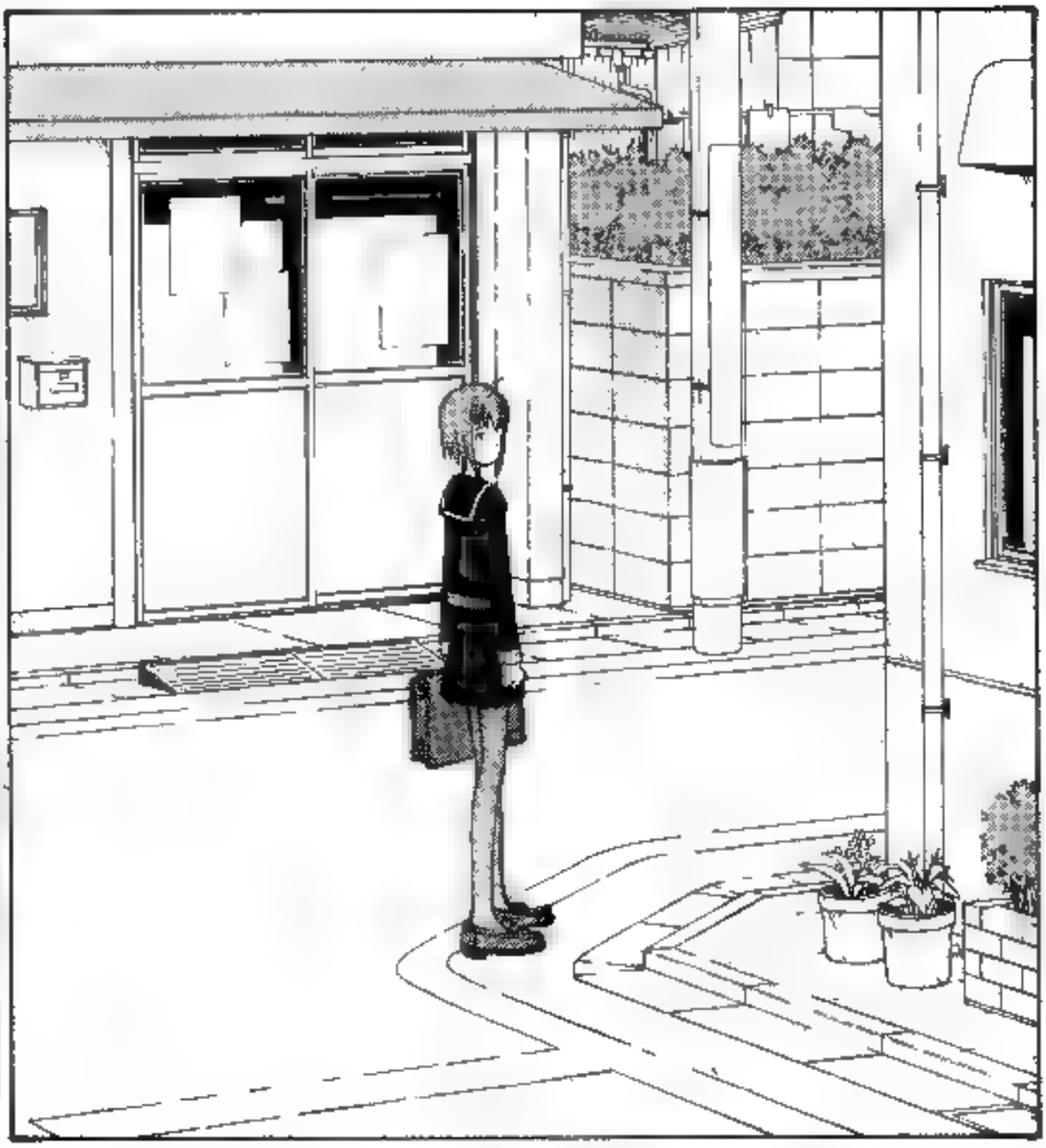
HA HA... UM... I *REALLY* NEED TO SEE HER TODAY, SO...

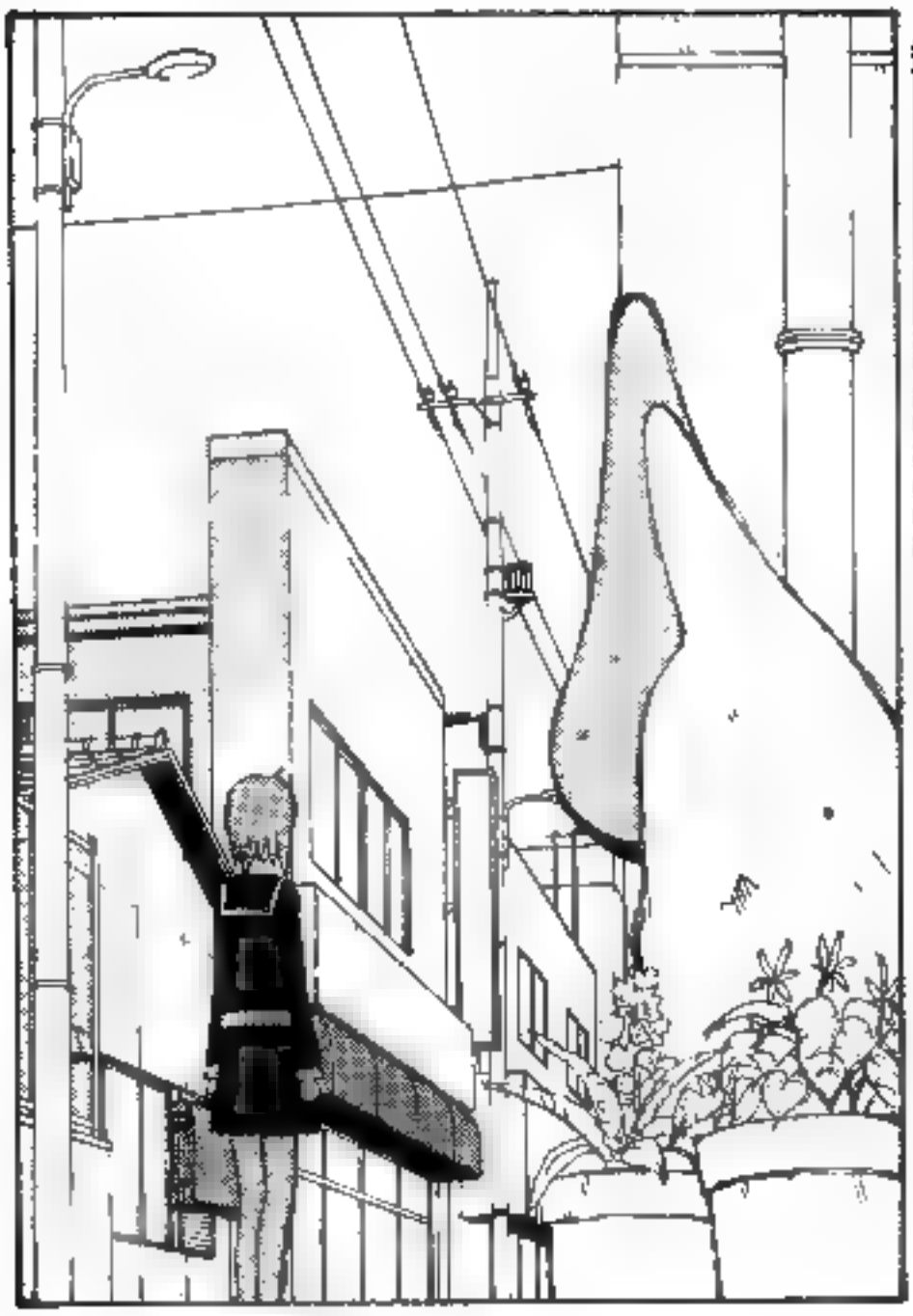
...CAN YOU TELL ME HER HOME ADDRESS OR SOME-THING...?

WHY NOT ...?

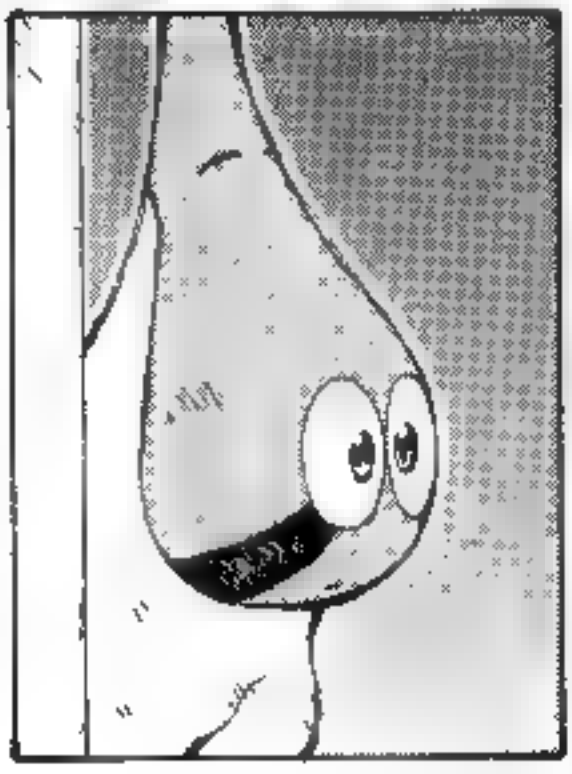
WAIT A SEC...













=hahh=

=hPp=

OWW!

A BLISTER!

I HATE SHOES LIKE THIS!

HMPH!

OKAY, FOLLOW ME OR WHATEVER.

I DON'T CARE

SINCE SHE GOES TO BANDA...

...SHE MUST LIVE IN A BIG FANCY HOUSE LIKE HIROKO'S.

IT MUST BE AROUND *HERE*, BUT...

WONDER IF I GOT THE ADDRESS WRONG...

HMM...

AH ...?

WHA--? *HERE?*

月令社宅

SIGN GETSUREI COMPANY HOUSING

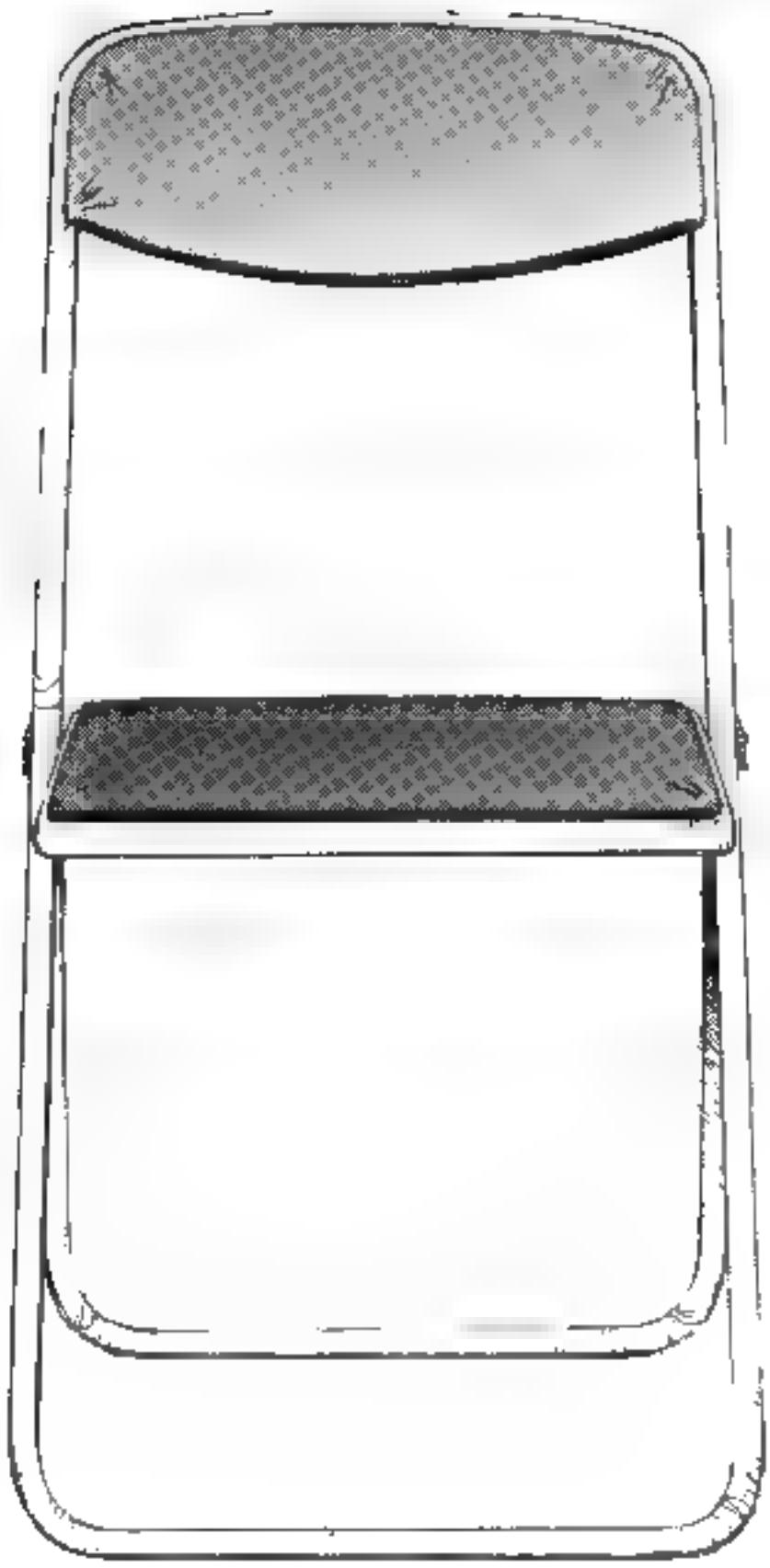
2

From a dying planet shall come the children of light.

shadow star

星なる皇族たる子

CALM COMPANY story & art by MOHIAO KITOH



I AGREE.

DUMPING GARBAGE ISN'T A GOOD THING TO DO.

BUT...

IT'S NOT AN ADEQUATE REASON TO *KILL SOMEONE,* IS IT?

THIS ISN'T ABOUT *LITTERING* BEING *RIGHT OR WRONG.*

HUH?

RIGHT OR WRONG, THE ACT ITSELF *DOESN'T MATTER.* WHAT MATTERS IS BEING ABLE TO FOLLOW SOCIETY'S RULES. RULES THAT HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN.

THEIR MENTALITY WAS THE PROBLEM.

WHAT?

IT'S MANDATORY THAT THE PAWNS *OBEY THE RULES* IF THEY WISH TO SURVIVE.

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.

BUT, AREN'T *YOU* ONE OF THE PAWNS, TOO?

AREN'T *YOU* BREAKING THE RULES?

I'M READY TO BE PUNISHED.

WELL, OF COURSE YOU *WILL BE*, BUT--

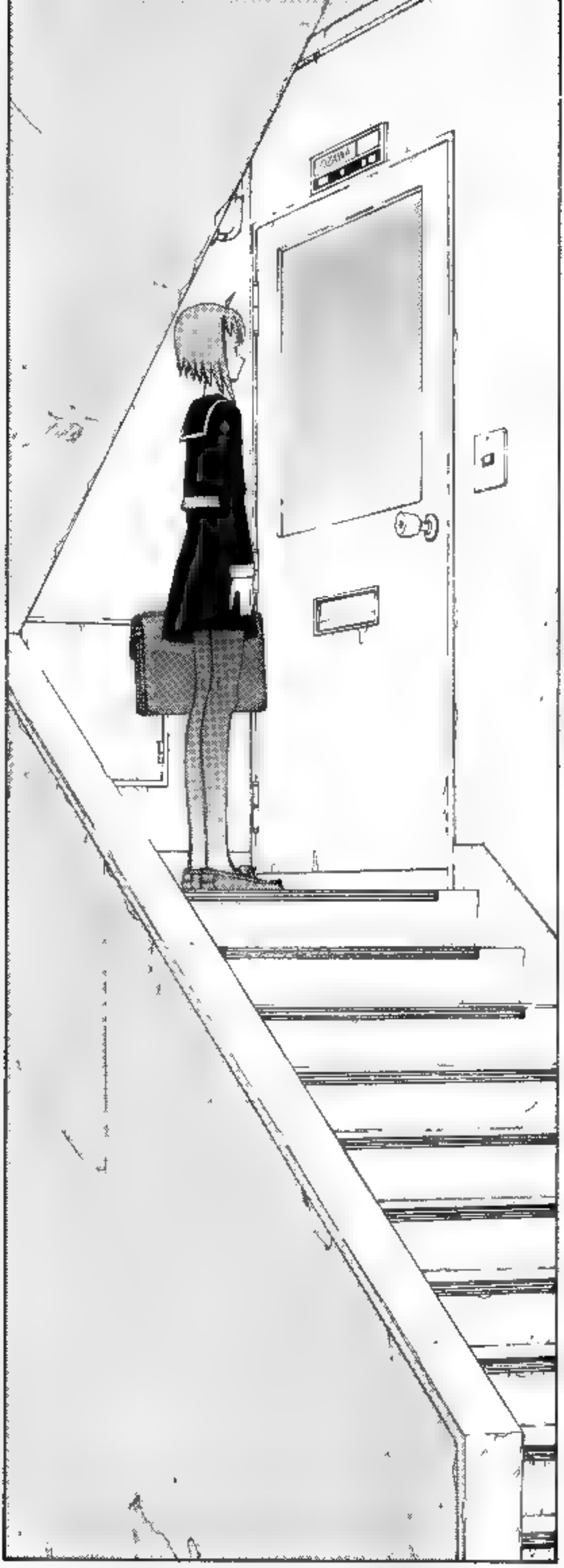
THERE'S SOMEONE I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONTACT.

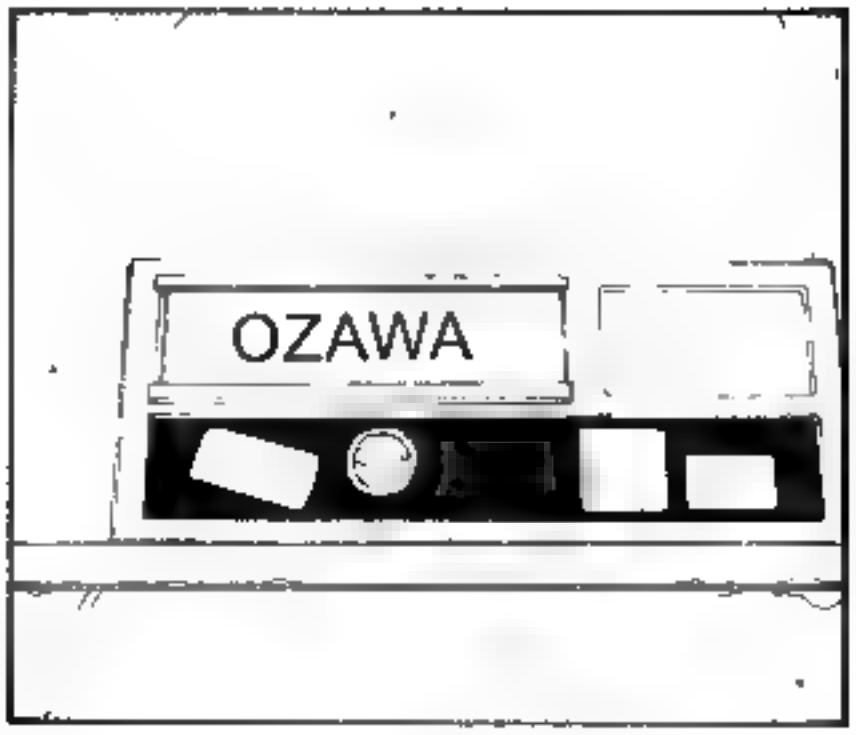
CAN I ASK YOU TO WRITE DOWN HIS NUMBER?

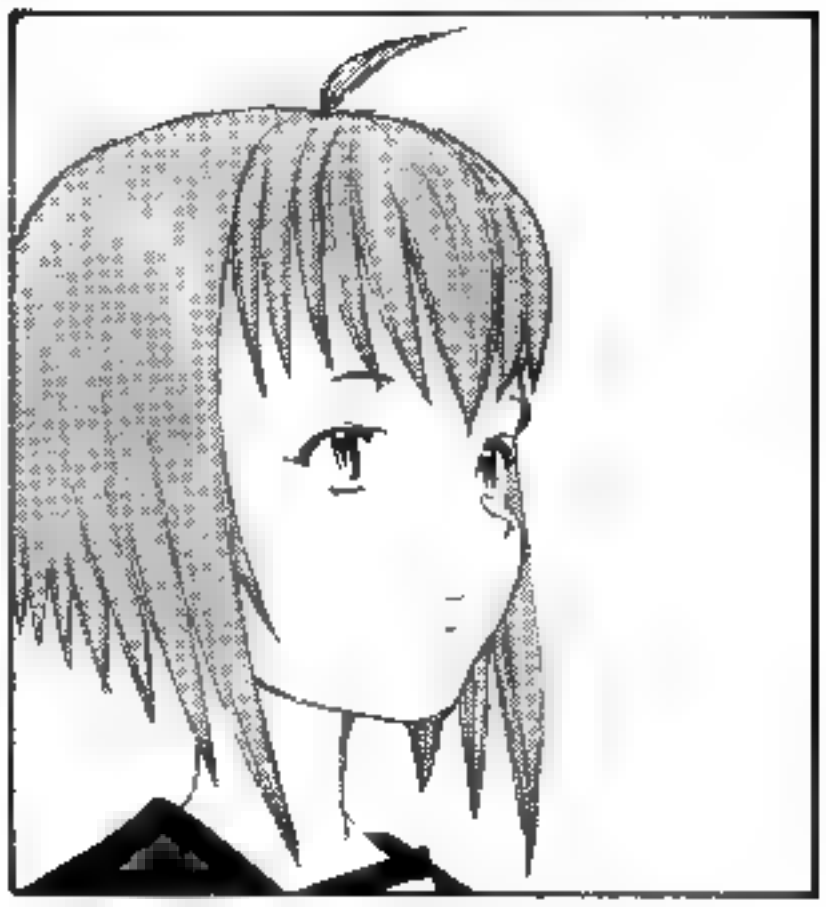
WHAT WOULD THIS PHONE NUMBER BE?

THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

TATSUMI MIYAKO.




OZAWA




NO ONE'S HOME?

IF SHE REALLY HAS ONE...

...I WONDER WHAT SORT OF *DRAGON CHILD* IT IS?

THAT--

--ANGEL MARIONETTE ...?

COULDN'T BE--

UHM, MAY I HELP YOU?

YOU GO TO *BANDA*, RIGHT?

EH... AH...

YES.

AN UNDER-CLASS-MAN?

UHM... YES.

AH...

SATOMI ISN'T HOME YET.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS *SHIINA TAMAI.*

NICE TO MEET YOU.

WELL...IS IT OKAY IF I WAIT OUT HERE?

PLEASE, COME IN AND WAIT *INSIDE.*

THOUGH, IT'S A SMALL PLACE.

AH... BUT...

OH, *PLEASE.* COME INSIDE...

OKAY?

YOU'RE IN YOUR *FIRST YEAR* OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHIINA?

YES.

SATOMI IS HARD TO PLEASE, ISN'T SHE?

BUT REALLY, SHE'S A *GENTLE* GIRL AT HEART.

PLEASE BE FRIENDS WITH HER.

SHE'S SO PRETTY.

I WONDER HOW OLD SHE IS...?

WHAT'S WRONG?

AH...

I...I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER...

SO IT FEELS SORT OF *STRANGE*...

OH? REALLY?

THEY SAY THAT BANDA'S *PICKY* ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, THOUGH.

WELL, IT'S RIDICU-LOUS, REALLY.

OH, I *DO* HAVE A MOTHER, BUT...

...WE AREN'T *LIVING TOGETHER*.

YOUR MOTHER'S A SCHOLAR?

TCHIK

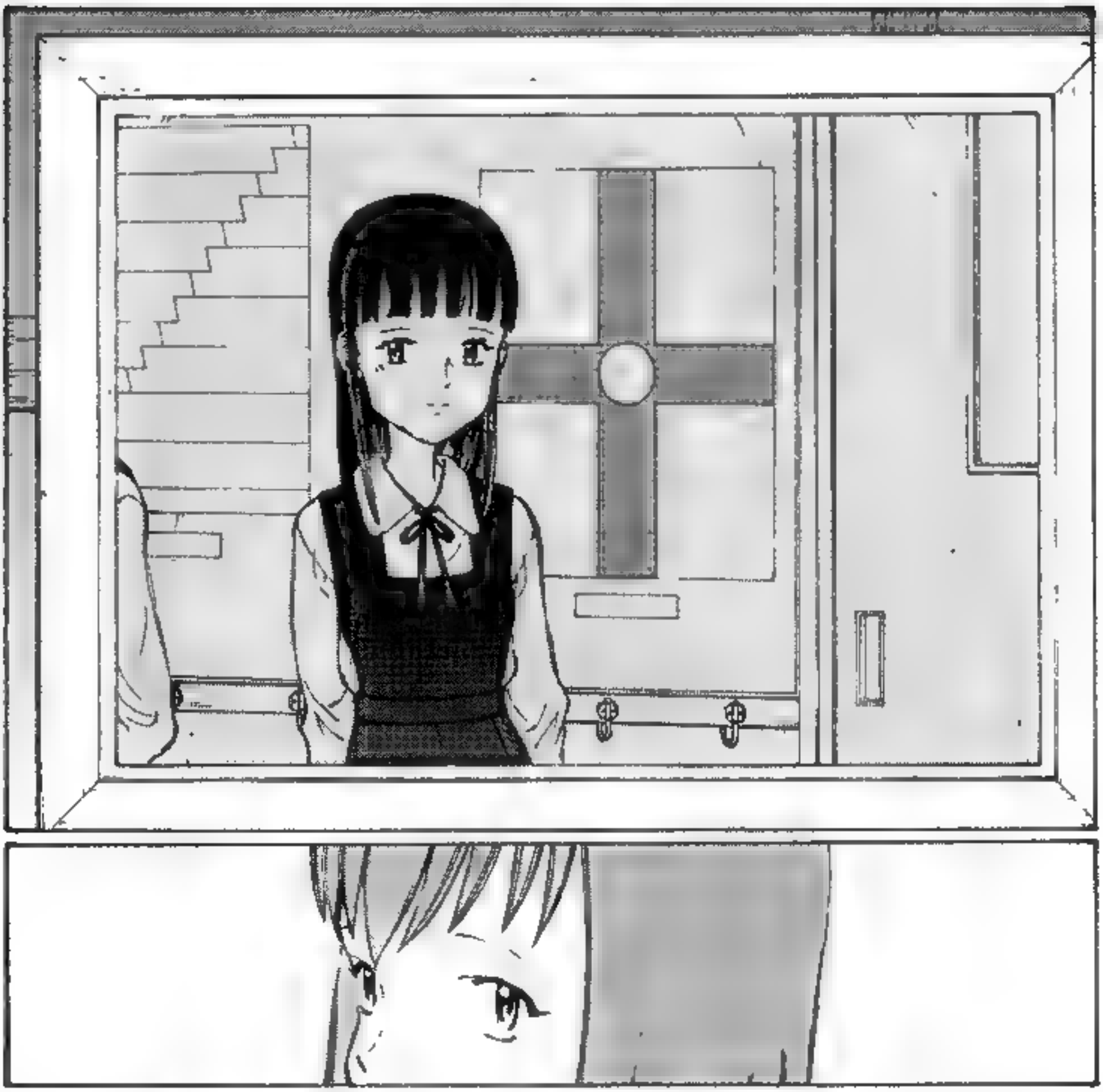
THAT'S SO NICE.

I GAVE BIRTH TO SATOMI WHEN I WAS *EIGHTEEN* AND BECAME A HOUSEWIFE...

SO I ADMIRE PEOPLE LIKE THAT.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M *UNHAPPY* WITH MY LIFE RIGHT NOW...

...BUT MAYBE I'LL GO BACK TO COLLEGE AFTER SATOMI GROWS UP.




SHIINA, HOW ABOUT EATING SUPPER WITH US?
MY HUSBAND COMES HOME REALLY LATE, SO IT'S ALWAYS JUST THE TWO OF US WHEN WE EAT.
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE MY DAD AT HOME ALONE--
OH YES, YOUR MOTHER'S NOT AT HOME.
YOU'RE SO RESPON-SIBLE!

WISH OUR *SATOMI* WAS...

KCHAK

AH, SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S BACK.

CAN YOU WAIT A MINUTE?

YOU'RE NOT STAYING, BUNGO?

HUH? *WHO?*

YOU LET HER IN?






HELLO.

HEY! WHY ARE YOU IN MY...

WOW.

I HAD SOME-THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.

I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, SO...

AH... AH... *HEY!*

FOLLOW ME!

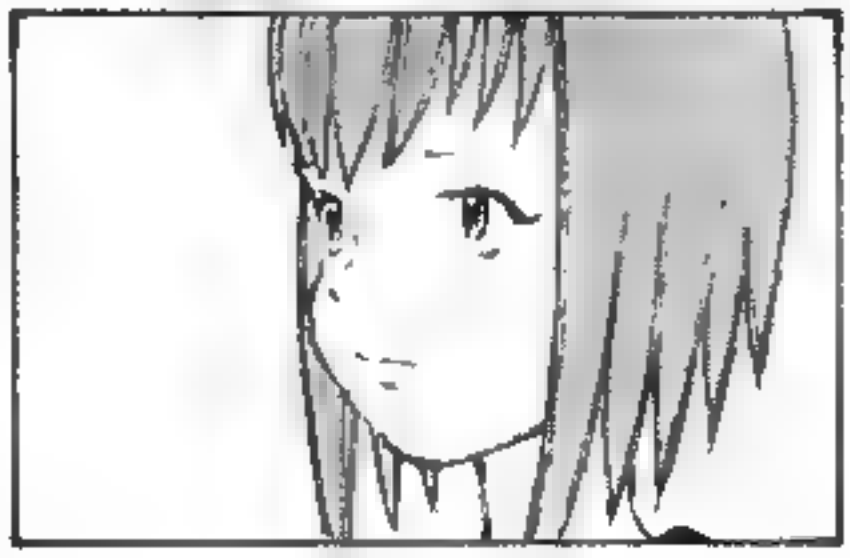
GEE, SATOMI, YOU SURE ARE *GOOD* AT WINNING PEOPLE OVER.

YOU'VE ALREADY BECOME FRIENDS, HUH?

YOU ***SHUT UP!!***




WHA... WHAT ARE YOU--?
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?




I'M SORRY!



EARLIER TODAY...I COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF.

SO, I'M SORRY.

UHHMMM...

IT'S OKAY.

I'LL FORGIVE YOU.

SINCE I'M A MATURE PERSON...

...I DON'T FUSS ABOUT SUCH LITTLE THINGS.

YOU'RE LUCKY, THEN...

...THAT IT WAS *ME* YOU SLAPPED.

LET'S BE FRIENDS.

I'D LIKE TO INTRO-DUCE...

...MY *CUTE* UNDER-CLASSMAN, SHIINA TAMAI.

THAT *MONKEY* OVER THERE IS *BUNGO TAKANO.*

MY NUMBER ONE SLAVE.

HEY!

MY, MY, YOU'RE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.

NOW, LET'S HAVE SUPPER TOGETHER. LET'S GO OUT.

BUNGO DOESN'T NEED ANY...

MY FATHER WILL...

TODAY, I...

SO, LET'S GO, THEN.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT DETAILS.

BRMMB

RRMMB

AH... WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

RMMB

OHHH. HE WON'T BE BACK TILL PAST MIDNIGHT.

RMM RMMB

MIDNIGHT?

RMMB

WELL, IT'S WORK, YOU KNOW?

in

THEN SATOMI AND BUNGO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR *YEARS?*

SINCE KINDER-GARTEN. AN *UNWANTED TIE.*

I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN COPING WITH *YOU.*

YOU TOTALLY LACK THE ABILITY TO EVEN EXAMINE THE SITUATION--

ARE YOU TWO *GOING OUT?*

SHIINA, THAT'S A GOOD QUES-TION.

WHO...WHO WOULD GO OUT WITH A GUY LIKE THIS?! I HANG OUT WITH HIM BECAUSE HE'S SO *PITIFUL!!*

WHAT?! YOU!

HE'S A *PERVERT* WHO PLAYS WITH *DOLLS!*

BUNGO! YOU'RE STILL DOING THAT?

I DON'T! NOT ANYMORE!

DOLLS ...?

OHHHH. GIMME A BREAK!

SHIINA'S MOTHER IS A SCHOLAR.

ISN'T THAT *AMAZING*?

A SCHOLAR? WHAT KIND?

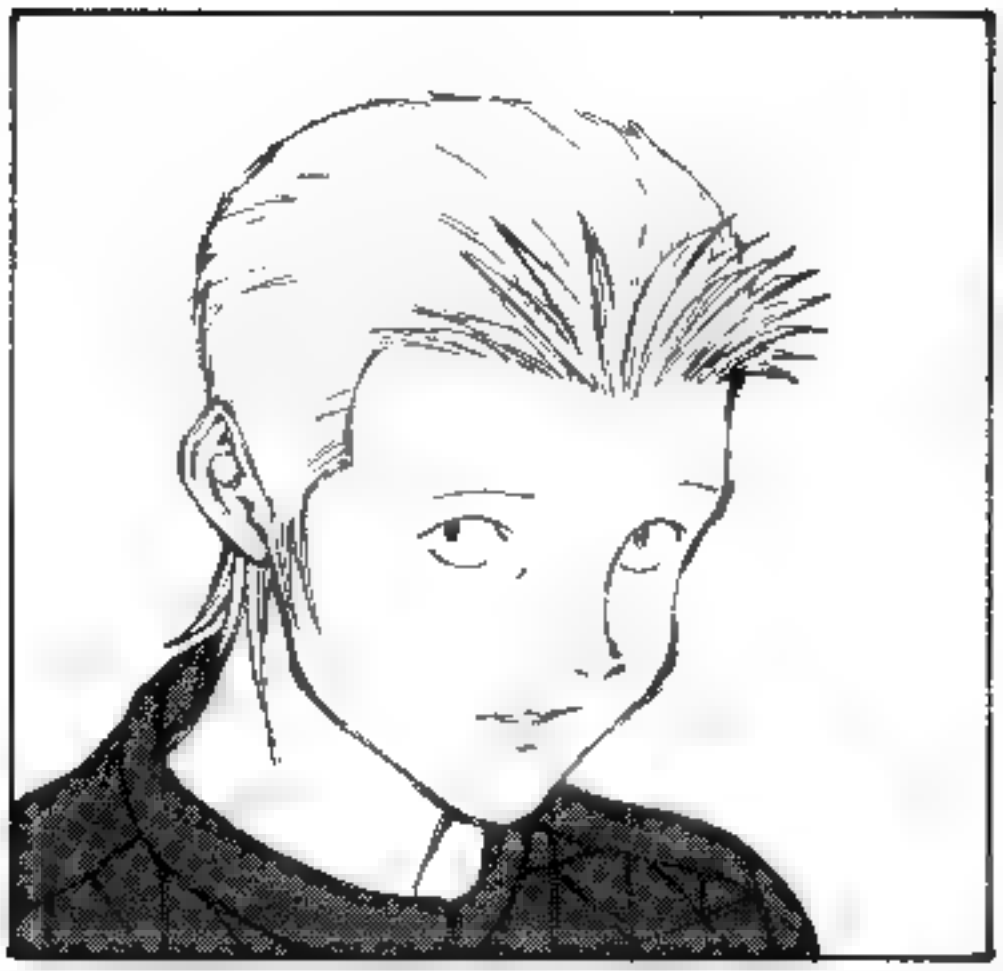
I...I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

HOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

AH...

UHHMM...

HE'S A *PILOT.*



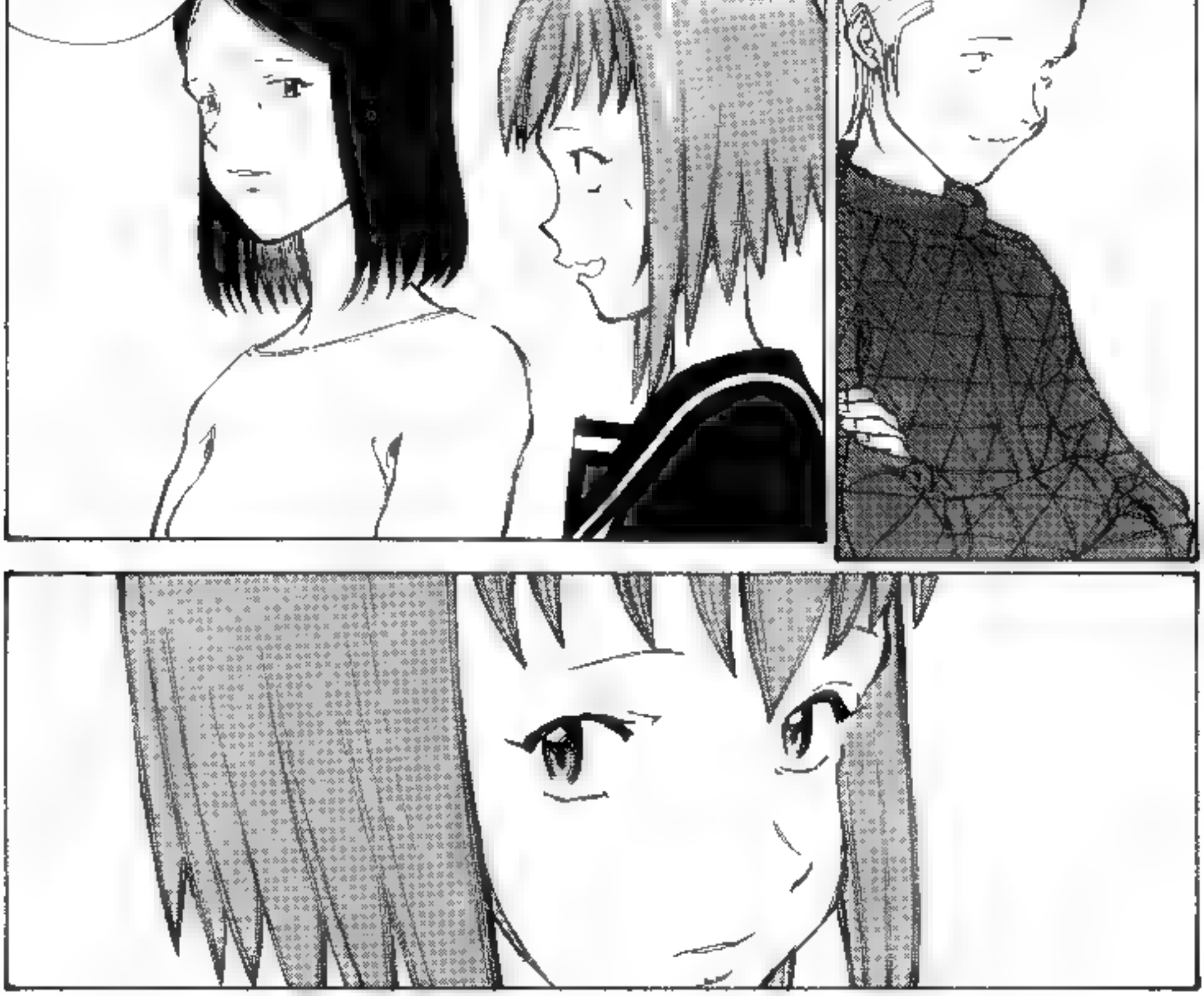



WOW! THAT'S WONDER-FUL!
NO WONDER.


WHAT KIND? AN AIRLINE PILOT?

UH...
HEH, WELL...





SO I'LL DRIVE SHIINA HOME...

BRMM RRMMB RMMB

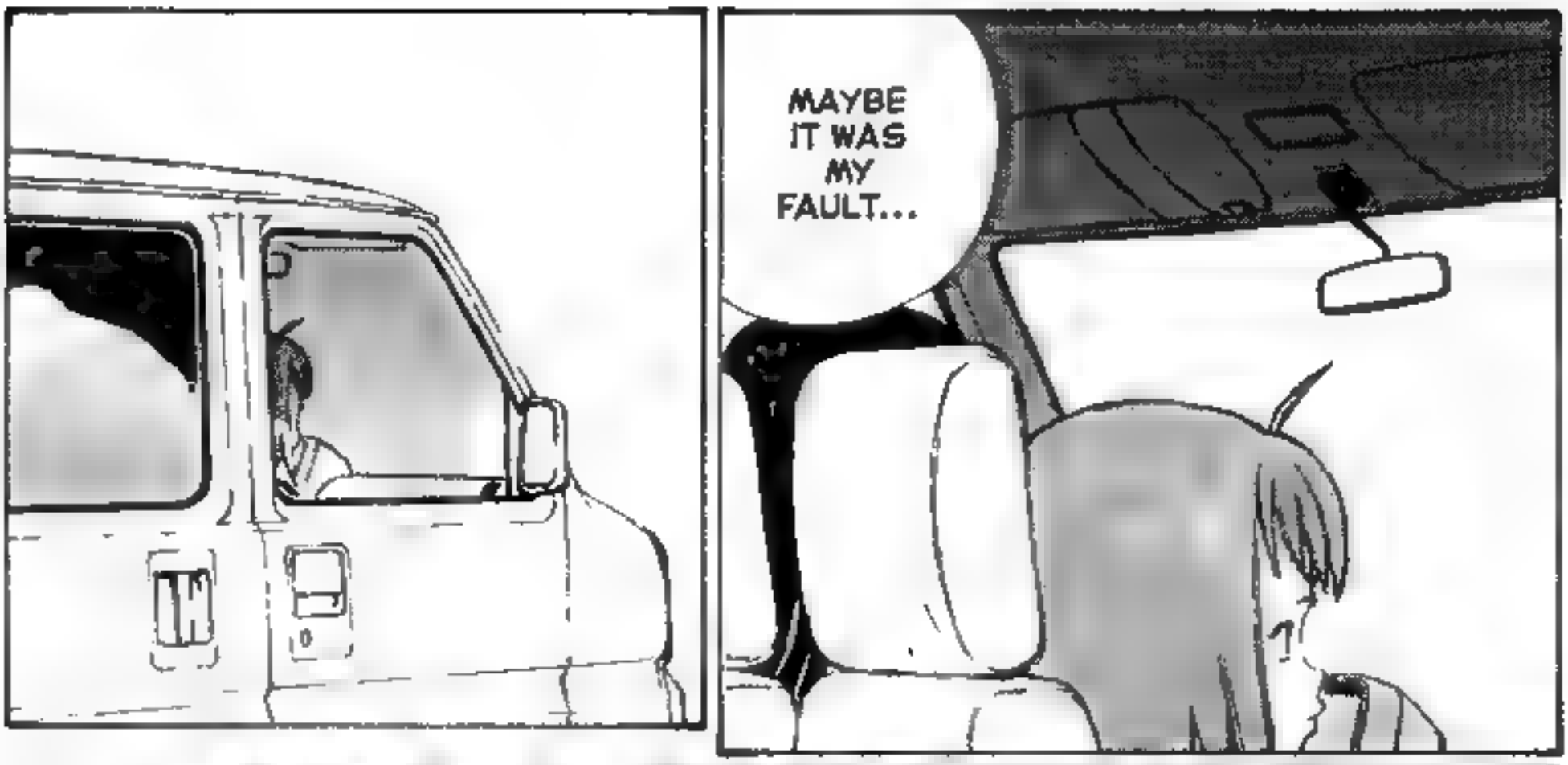
VRMMM

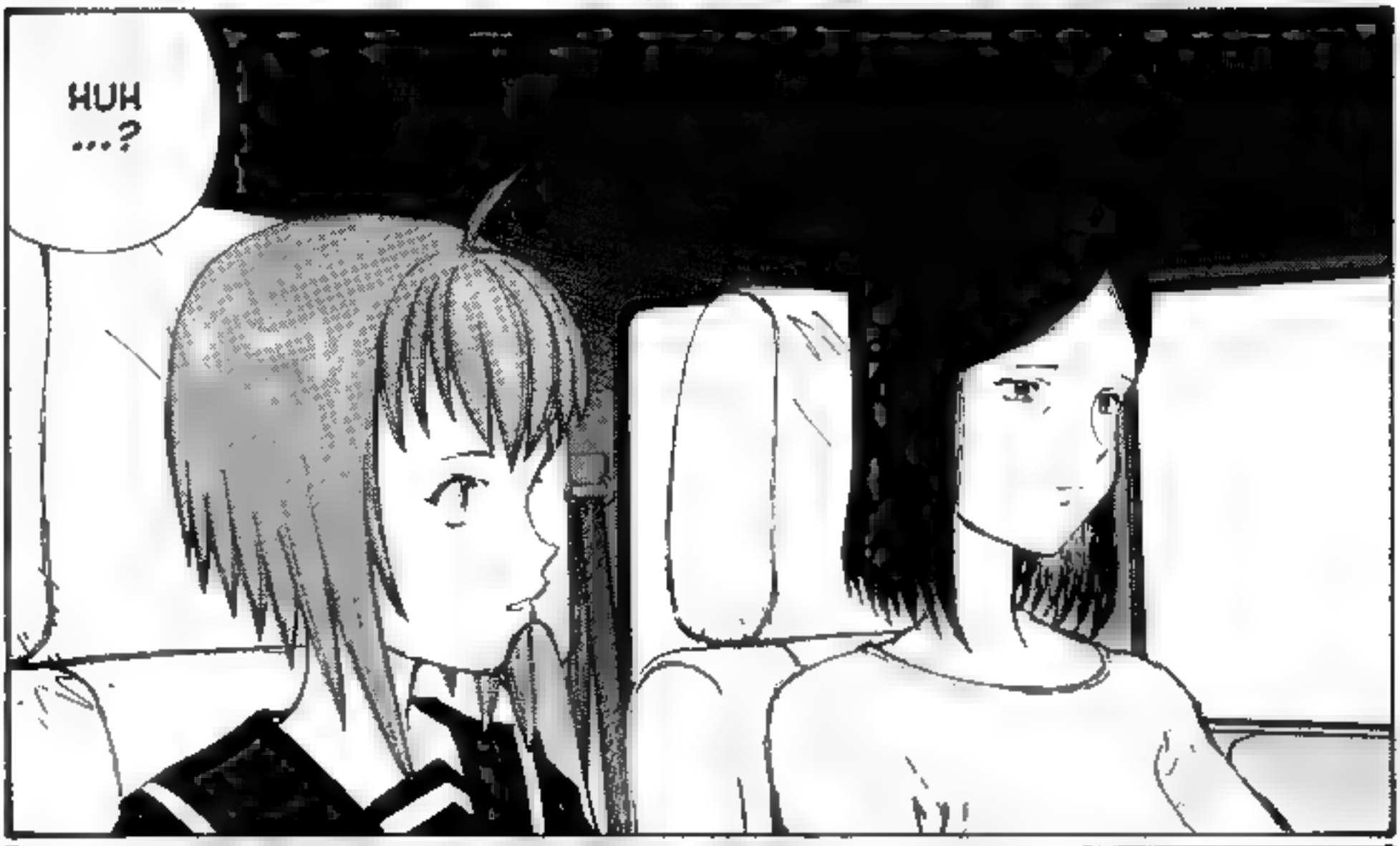
VRMMMB RRMMB

I HOPE IT'S OKAY THAT I DRAGGED YOU ALONG TODAY.

SATOMI CAN BE SO *CLUMSY* AT EXPRESSING HERSELF...

I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE FORGIVE HER.


MAYBE IT WAS MY FAULT...


HUH ...?


I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING.

AH, THIS IS IT.

WHICH HOUSE?

NO. THAT PLACE...

HUH? AN APART-MENT?

HEH HEH HEH!

I SEE. I GUESS NOT ALL BANDA STUDENTS HAVE NANNIES AND PARASOLS.

IT'S SUCH A RELIEF.

BYE, SHIINA! COME OVER AGAIN!

BYE BYE!

OH.

PRUFS PRUFS



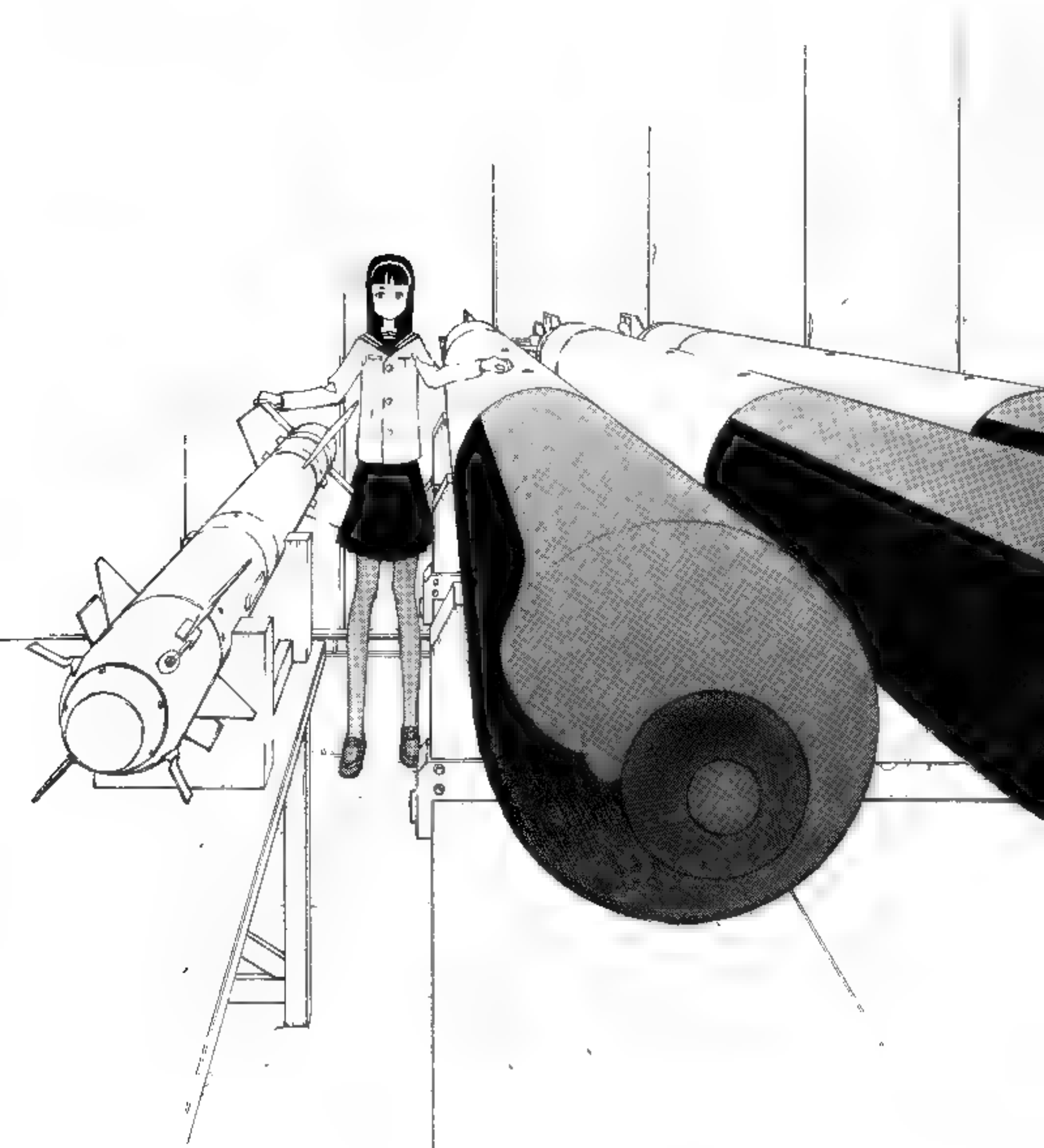
From a dying planet shall come the children of light

shadow star

影なき星落たる子

THE CUP RUNNETH OVER

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH



SHIINA. YO.

WHERE'S NORIO?

SETTING UP HIS SHOW.

"SHOW" ...?

ART SHOW. THOSE DOLLS OF HIS.

HUH?! FOR *REAL?*

YEAH. HE'S HAD A FEW ALREADY.

HE ACTUALLY HAS QUITE A FOLLOW-ING.

HE'S *SOME-THING...*

...OUR NORIO.

HE WASN'T DOING MUCH WORK...

...BUT FINALLY, JUST RECENT-LY...

WANNA GO WITH ME?

HAVE A LOOK?

YEAH !!

AND BRING YOUR *BANDA* FRIENDS?

DIDN'T YOU COME FOR SOME-THING?

THE *OTHER ONES* AT EAST FUJI, HUH?

WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO YOU?

SO YOU *DO* KNOW THEM?

WELL, DUH. MAKES *SENSE*, RIGHT?

CHECK-ING OUT...

...YOUR *COM-RADES?*

OR MAYBE YOUR ENEMIES?

WELL?

TELL ME!

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER NOT KNOWING...

...BUT, I GUESS THAT'S JUST YOU.

THAT'S *WHY*...

...YOU'RE *YOU.*

IF YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, I GUESS YOU HAVE A *SUSPECT?*

I DON'T KNOW. I COULD BE WRONG.

AT EAST FUJI THAT DAY, THERE WERE...

...*THREE.*

GLP

BUT...

...I AIN'T *TELLIN' WHO.*

WHY *NOT?!*

WHY SPOIL THE FUN?

THMPP

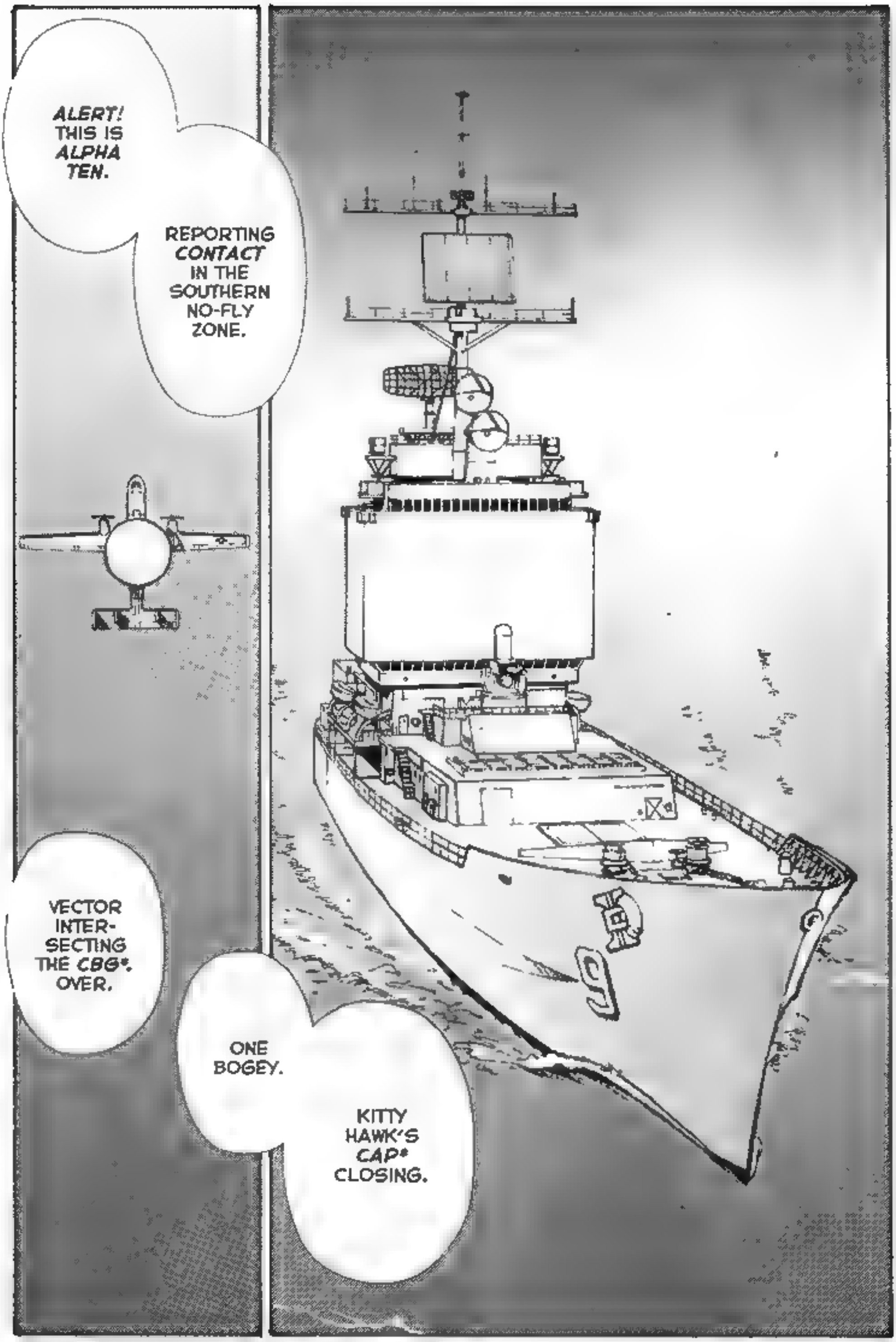
YOU'RE *NASTY!*

FIGURE IT OUT YOUR-SELF.

RRRR

JERK !!

PAPP


ALERT! THIS IS ALPHA TEN.
REPORTING CONTACT IN THE SOUTHERN NO-FLY ZONE.
VECTOR INTER-SECTING THE CBG*. OVER.
ONE BOGEY.
KITTY HAWK'S CAP* CLOSING.

*CBG CARRIER BATTLE GROUP *CAP COMBAT AIR PATROL

ROGER THAT, ALPHA TEN.

VISUAL ACQUIRED.

CONFIRMING NATIONALITY AND MODEL. OVER.

DELTA ONE, TEN MILES TO TARGET.

DELTA TWO *HOLDING*, THREE MILES BACK.

CLOSING.

HUH ...?!

ALL HANDS! *BATTLE STATIONS!!*

DELTA ONE AND DELTA TWO ARE *SHOT DOWN!*

BOGEY IS *HOSTILE!* REPEAT, *HOSTILE!*

WE'VE LOST ALPHA TEN'S DATA LINK...

ALPHA TEN, *DOWN!*

TARGET *LOST!!*

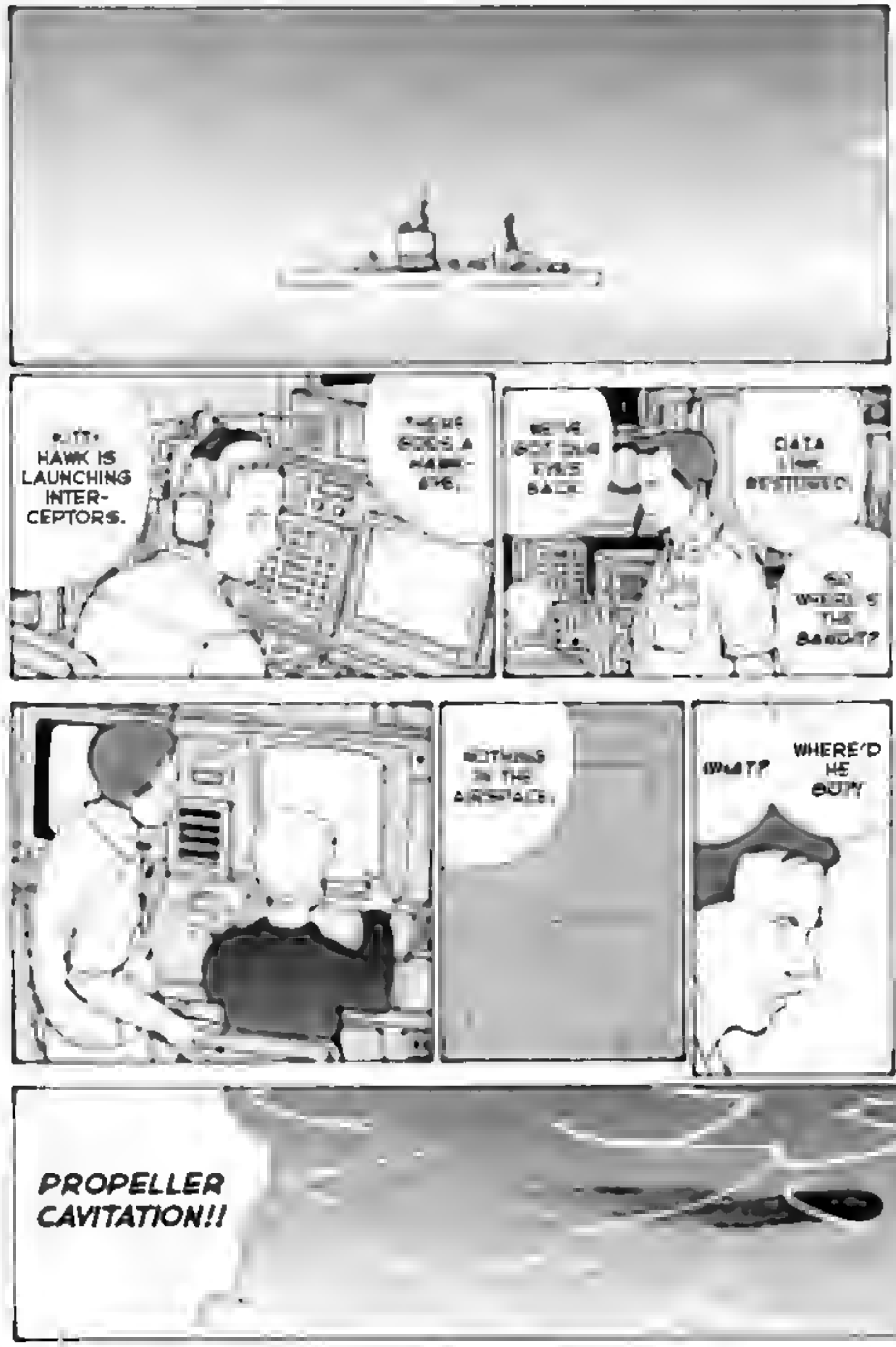
OUR SHIPBOARD ARRAY CAN'T TRACK HIM?

HE'S FLYING ON THE DECK?

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THAT *SCREEN!*

WE'RE THE *CLOSEST SHIP!*

ANTI-AIR, GO RED!


HAWK IS LAUNCHING INTER-CEPTORS.
DATA
WHERE'D HE GO?
PROPELLER CAVITATION!!

FKKOOOM

A TORPE-DO?!

ANOTHER ONE! INCOMING!

PORT !!

BKROOOM

DAMAGE REPORT!

I'M GOING TO THE BRIDGE!

CAPTAIN TO THE BRIDGE!

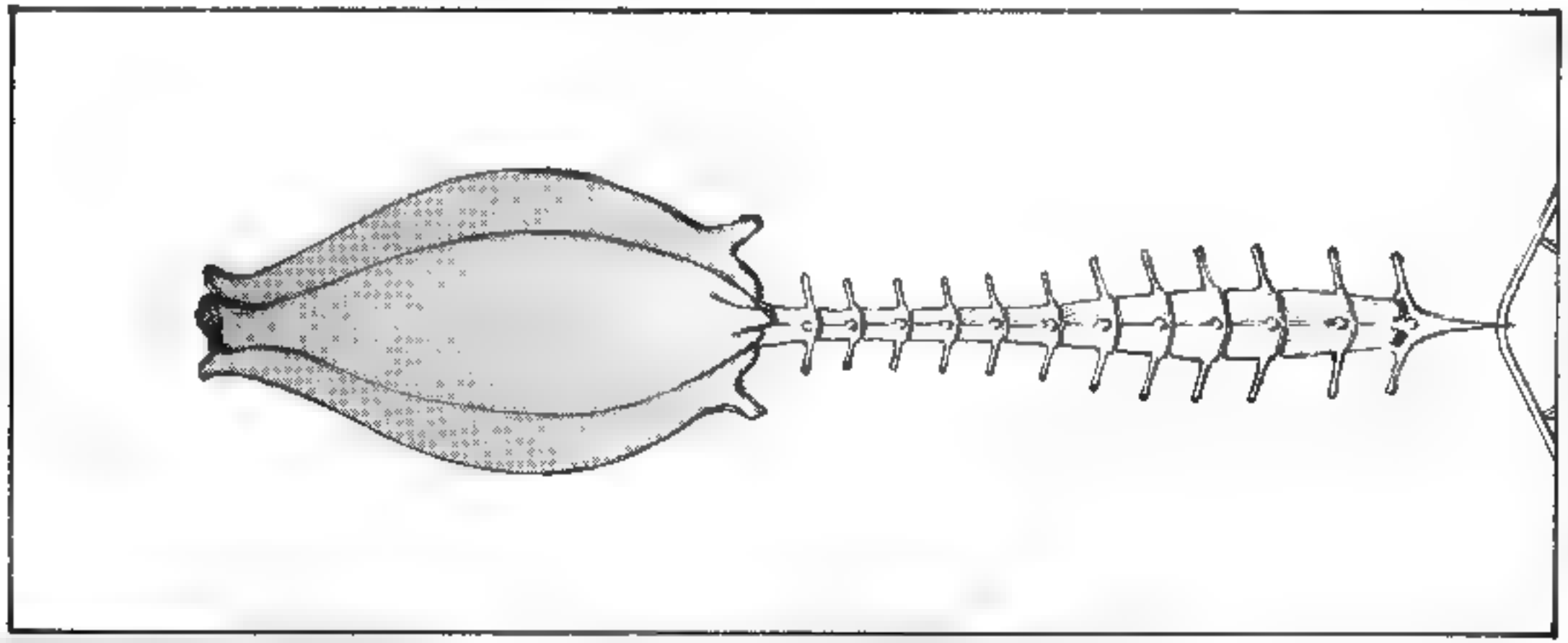
WHO THE HELL ARE WE *FIGHT-ING?*

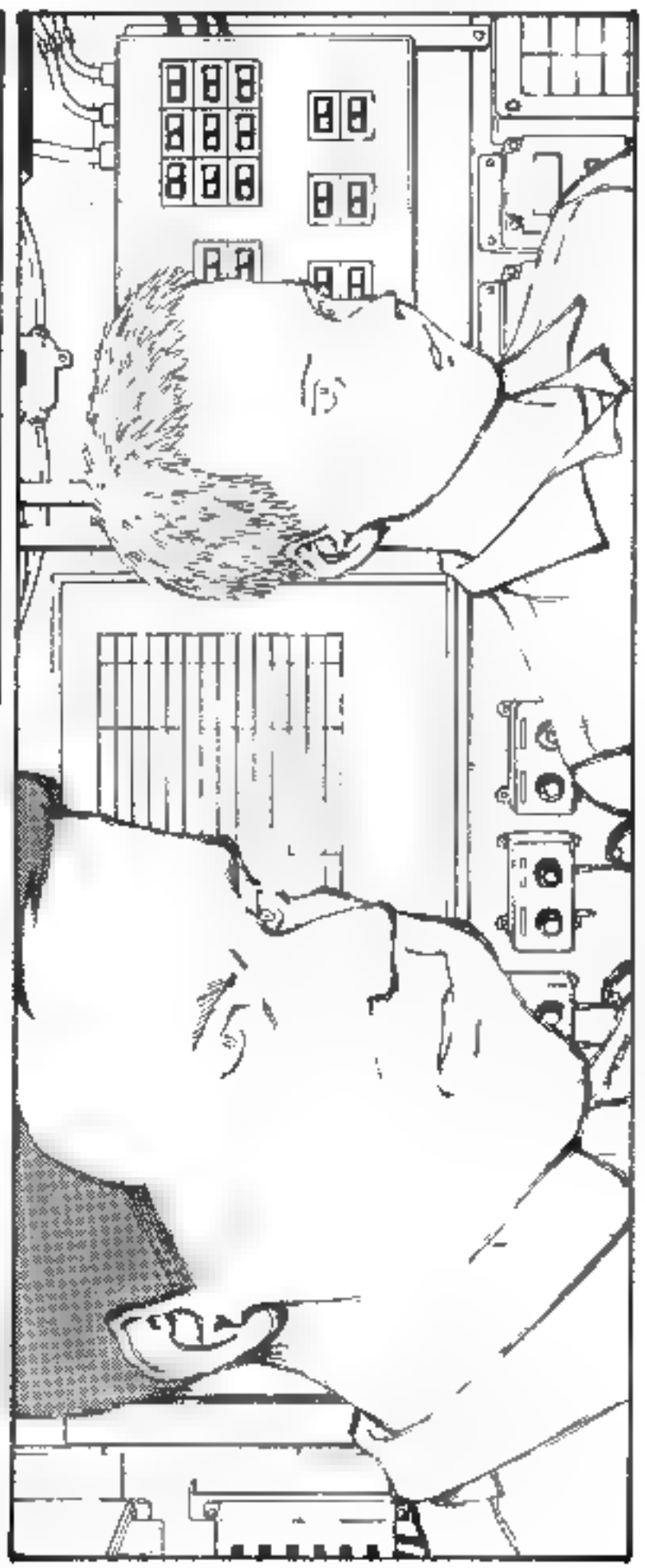
WHAT ABOUT OUR *SUB SCREEN?*

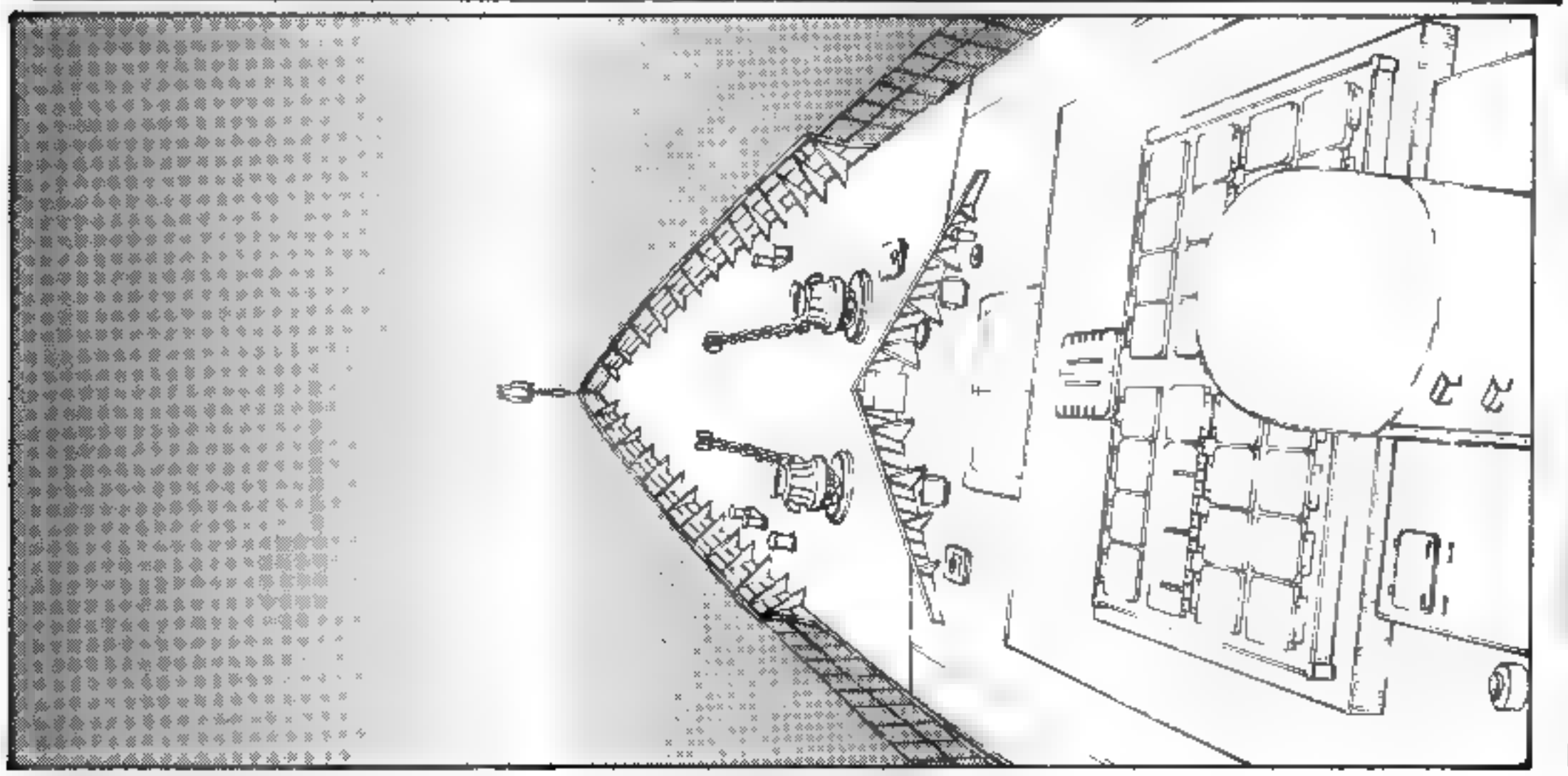
WHAT IS...

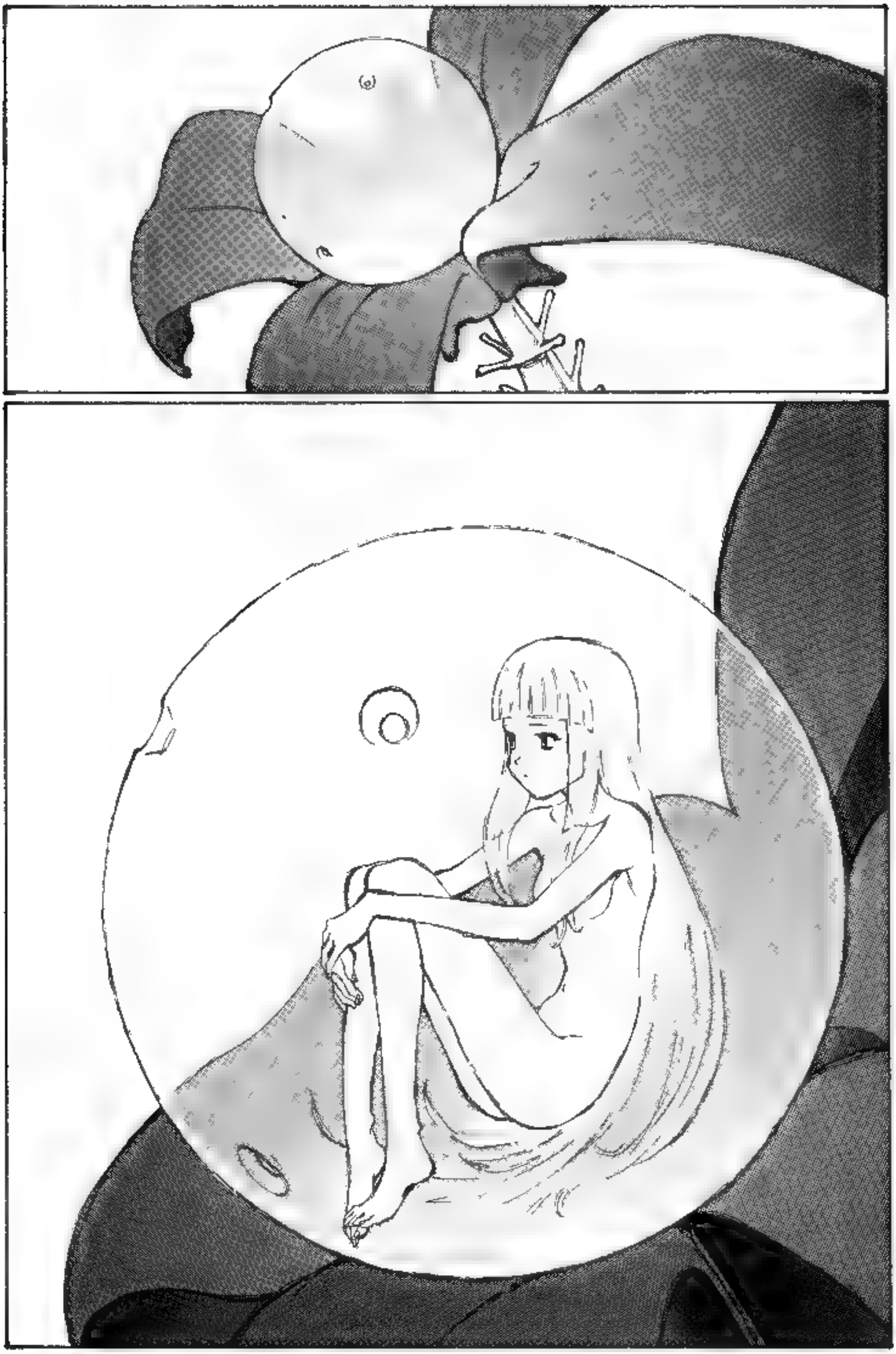
...THAT?!

SUB SCREEN: The nuclear attack submarine attached to carrier battle groups to operate ahead of the fleet and detect enemy submarines.







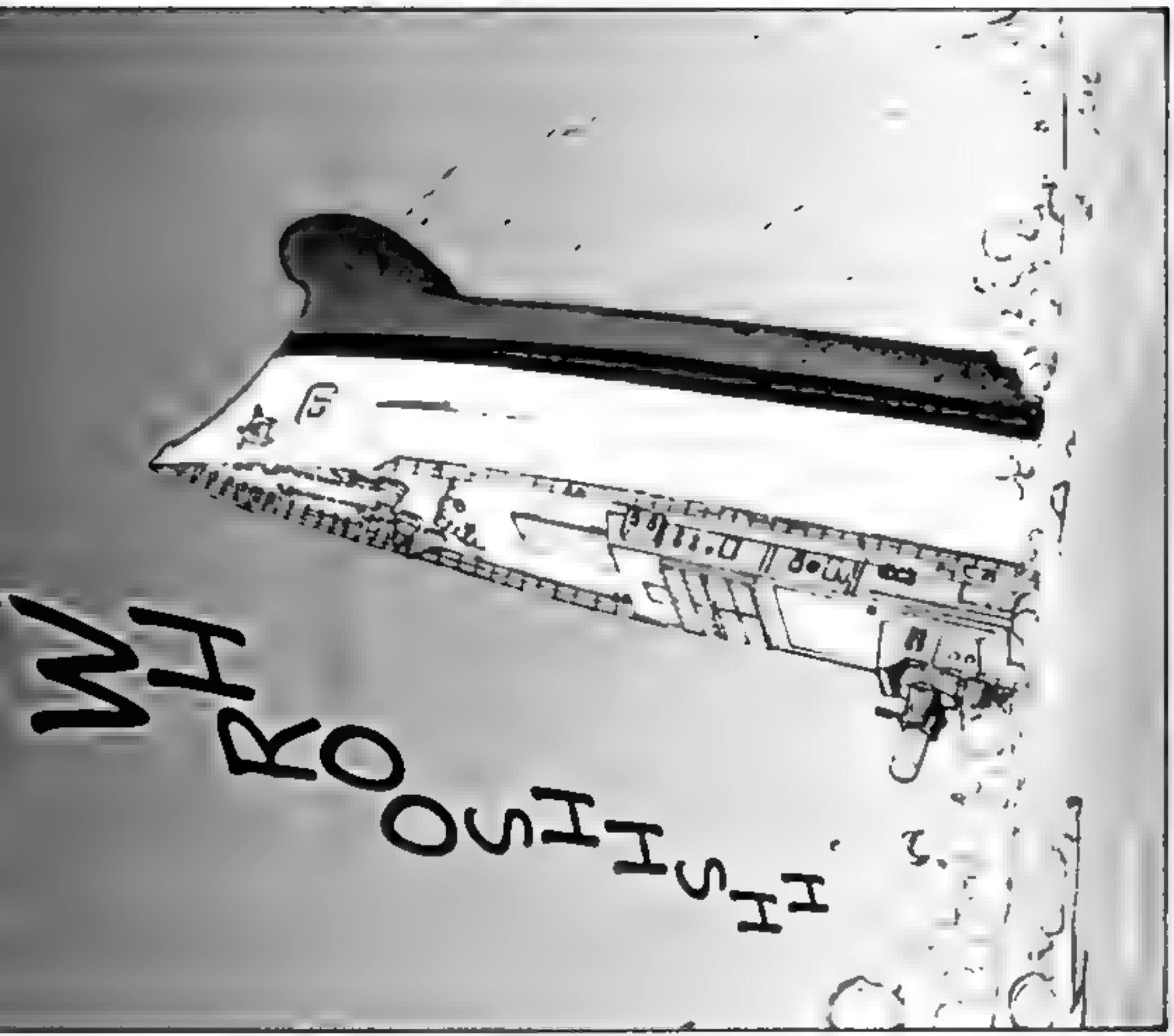


SLICHH

HIT THE *DECK* !!

KRAM

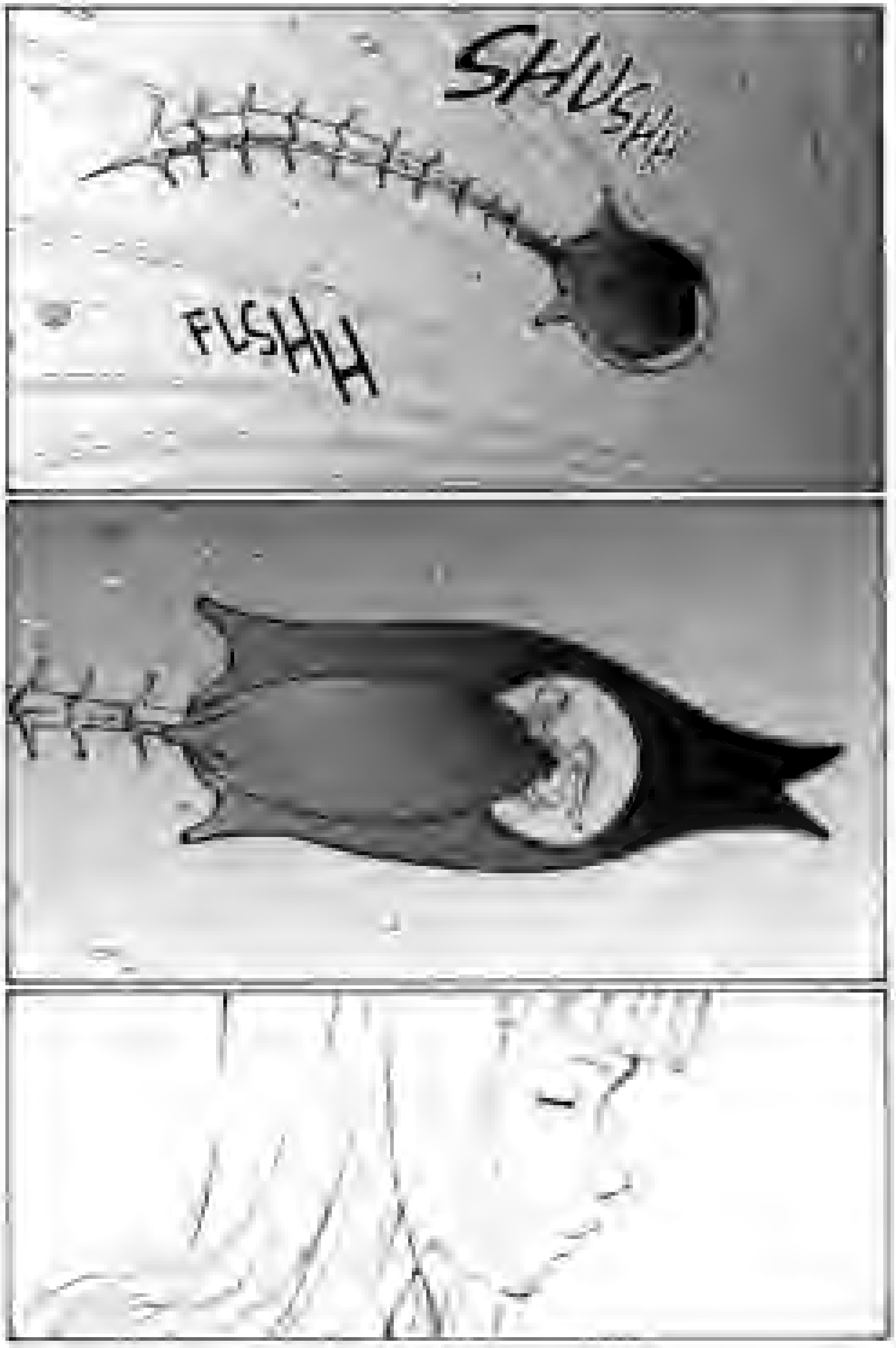
FSHHHH


WHOOSH




THE LOUD BEACH IS BORED DOWN!




SPLASH!
FLUSH!!




BRILLIANT!











CGN: Missile cruiser, nuclear

WE LIMITED OURSELVES TO *EX-WARSAW PACT* WEAPONS.

HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO--?

THERE ARE *NO* MILITARY SECRETS, NOT WITH *THEIR* TALENTS.

SO, LET'S ALL *PULL* TOGETH-ER...

...AND GIRD UP OUR LOINS!

HEY, WE JUST SANK AN AMERICAN *CRUISER!*

WHAT WE NEED TO PONDER *NOW* IS...

...HOW DO WE *WIELD* OUR NEW *SWORD?*

DRAGONS, HUH?

I HAVE MIXED FEEL-INGS.

IN-DEED...

TWO HUNDRED LIVES! TO ACQUIRE THAT POWER? CHEAP AT THE *DAMNED PRICE--*

HEY, STEADY THERE.

EAST FUJI?

HM. *MIYAKO* DOESN'T CARE.

BUT...

SHOULD WE REALLY *USE* IT...

THIS *POWER?*

LIVE BY THE SWORD, *DIE* BY THE SWORD...

HE'S A *CHILD* WITH A NEAT NEW *TOY*...

...THAT MIYAKO.

HE CAN'T BEAR...

...NOT TO USE IT.

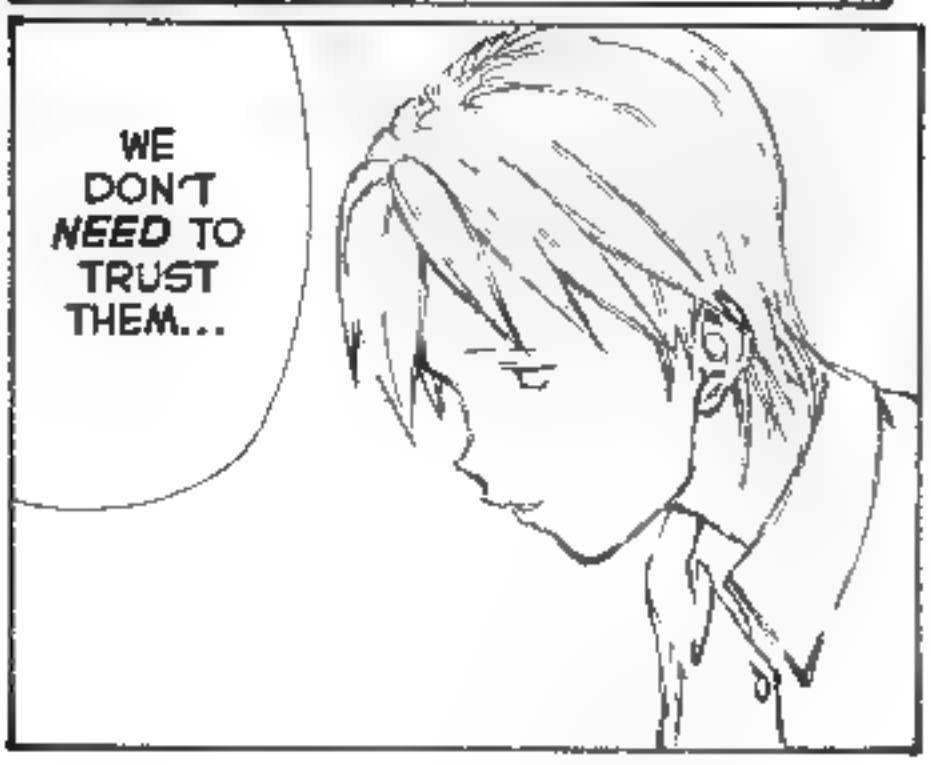
THE HINO REPORT.

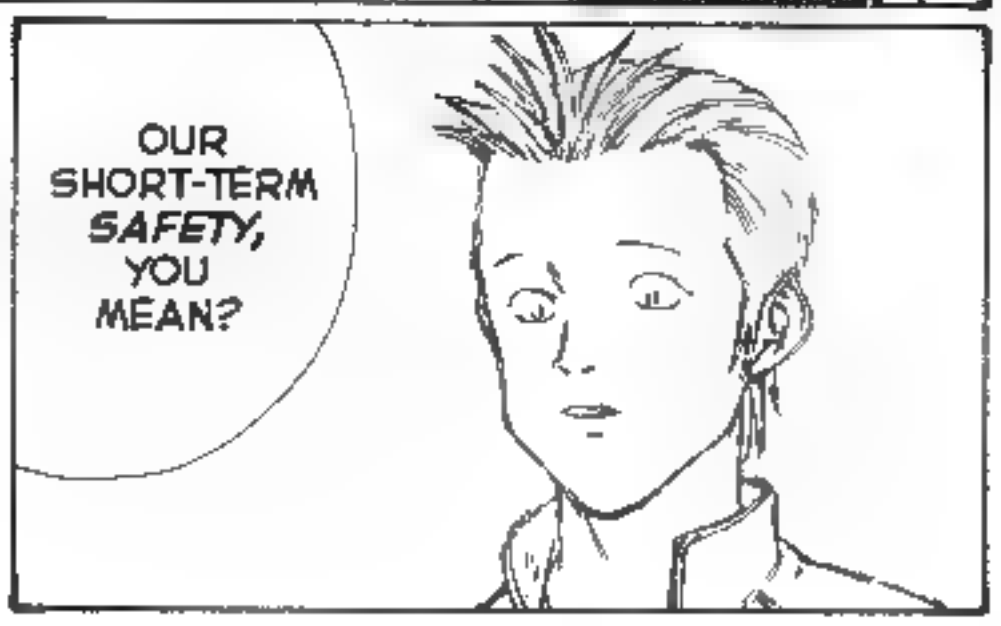
HE INTENDS TO *EXECUTE* IT.


YOU THINK WE CAN *TRUST* 'EM?
THOSE PEOPLE?




...BUT THERE'S A USEFULNESS IN JOINING THEM.


WE DON'T *NEED* TO TRUST THEM...


OUR SHORT-TERM *SAFETY*, YOU MEAN?

BUT OUR *GOALS*...

THEY'RE, LIKE, SO *DIFFER-ENT.*

NOT A PROB-LEM.

OUR *ENDS* MAY DIFFER...

...BUT OUR *MEANS* ARE THE SAME.

THEY THINK THEY CAN USE OUR POWER...

...AND WE CAN USE *THEIRS.*

GULP

WHAT ABOUT *KOMORI?*

I DON'T KNOW YET.

KURI CAN'T TRACE HIM, EITHER.

WE'LL HAVE TO SOUND THEM OUT ON THAT.

WHICH LEAVES *SAKURA* AND *TAMAI*, BUT...

...I'M SURE THEY'VE BEEN *EXPOSED.*

AND *YOU*, SUDO?

OH, I'M IN CUSTODY. UNDER *OBSERVATION.*

I'M A JUVENILE OFFENDER, NO?

TAKANO. OZAWA. BE CAREFUL.

I EXPECT THEY'LL TAIL YOU.

ROGER.

WELL, WE'VE PROVEN OUR *VALUE.*

WE SHOULD BE OKAY.

OZAWA...

GOOD JOB.

MAN, IT WAS A *BITCH* TRAINING HER.

GIVE *ME* SOME CREDIT, TOO.

WAPP

YOU *SHUT UP!*

IT WAS *MY TALENT,* UNDER-STAND!!

WELL, WHATEVER THE PRO-CESS...

...I LIKE THE *OUTCOME.*

I'LL BE *COUNTING* ON YOU.




YO.
HOWDY!

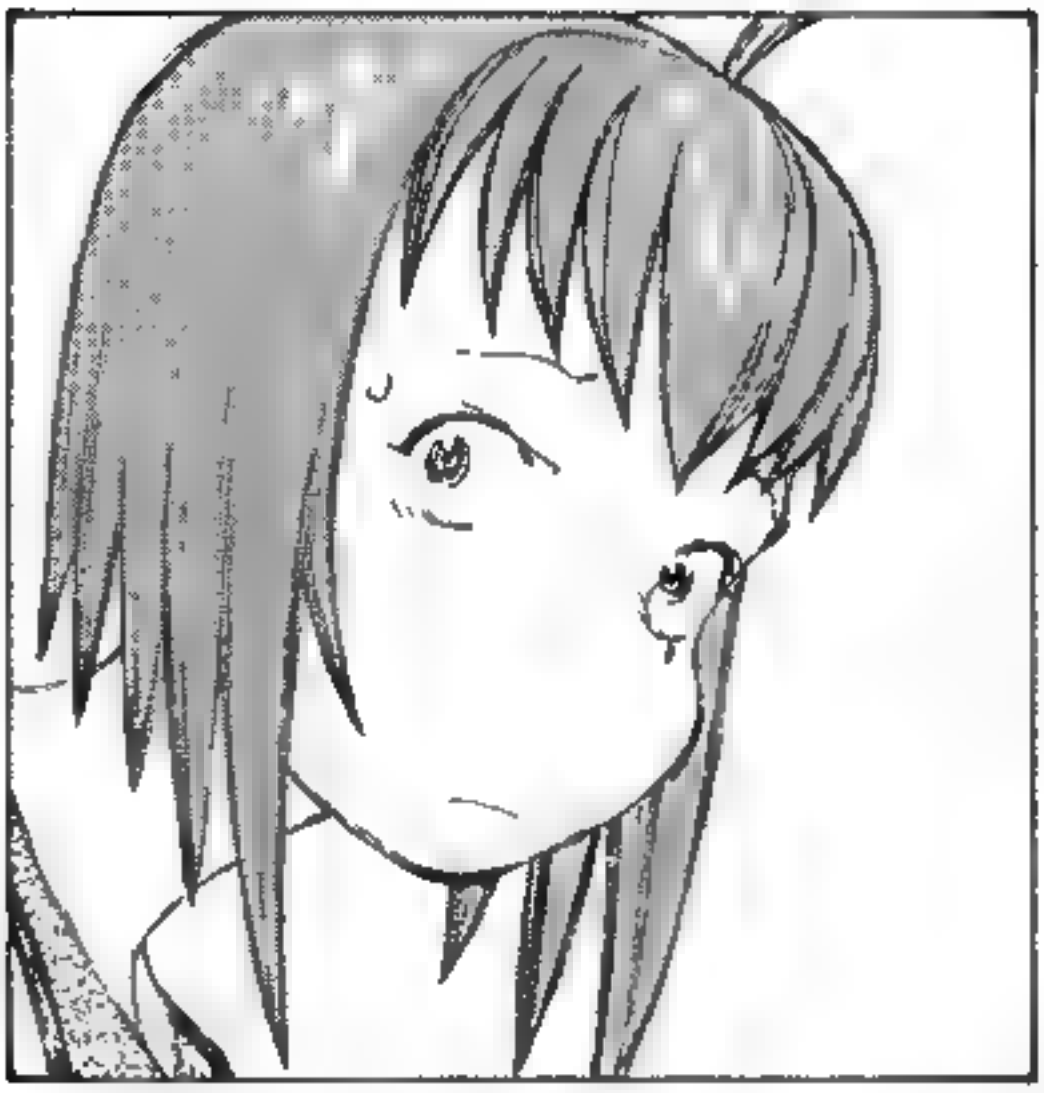

OZAWA, MY UPPER-CLASS-MAN...
...AND, UHMM... MY FRIENDS.
THIS IS TAKEO TSURU-MARU.


NICE TO MEET YOU.
IT'S MUTUAL.


YOU'RE ALL FROM BANDA?

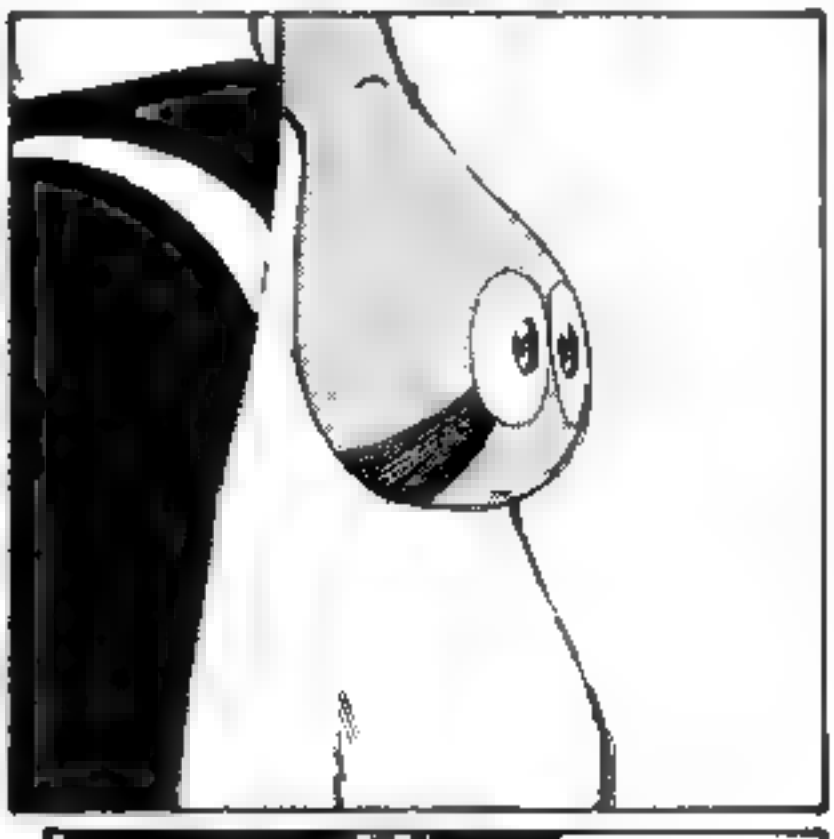



FWHTT
YOU BANDA GIRLS ARE AS CUTE AS THEY SAY!
HEEEEE!

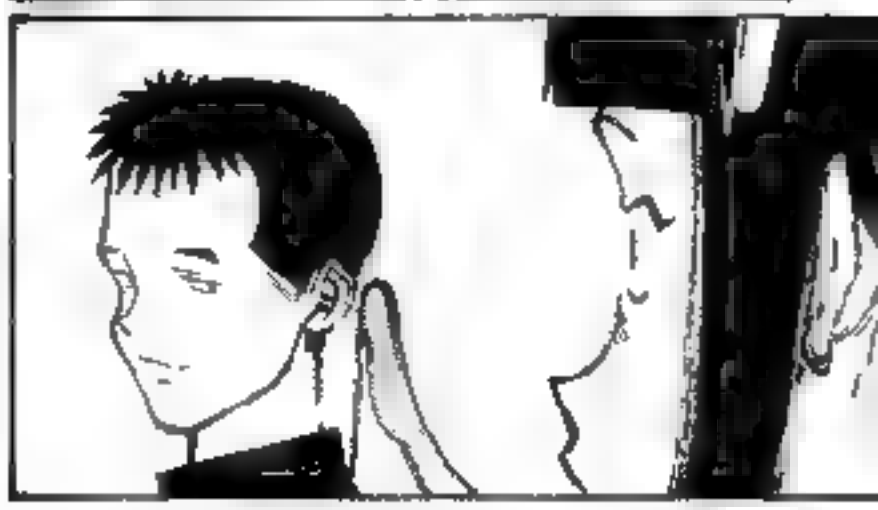



CAN I CALL YOU BIG BROTHER?
I'D *LOVE IT* IF YOU DID.


AHH... HO... HO...
OOOH! WHAT A *CUTE* BACKPACK!







TAKANO COULDN'T COME?

BUNGO? I DON'T WASTE MY *HOLIDAYS* ON HIM.

HE SAID HE WAS *BUSY.* AND BESIDES...

...THAT *CRETIN* COULDN'T *APPRECIATE* ART.

WHO'S THAT? HER BOY-FRIEND?

UH-HUH.

NO! HE'S *NOT!!*

TALLY HO, NORIO!

OH. IT'S YOU...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HE NEVER CHANGES...

A BOY!?

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO LOOK, DO AS YOU PLEASE.

OH, SUCH A *DELICATE* SENSIBILITY...

AND THAT *ATTITUDE!* HE'S *TOO COOL...*

BE-NEATH...

SHMMP

...MY *NOTICE.*

HE DOESN'T *REALLY* MEAN IT.

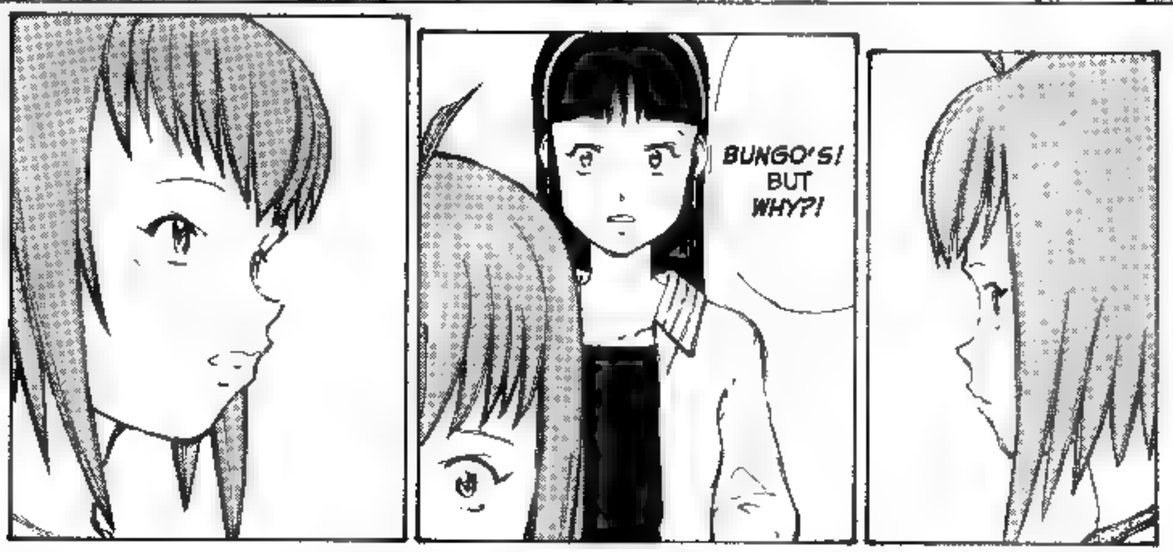
FORGIVE HIM!

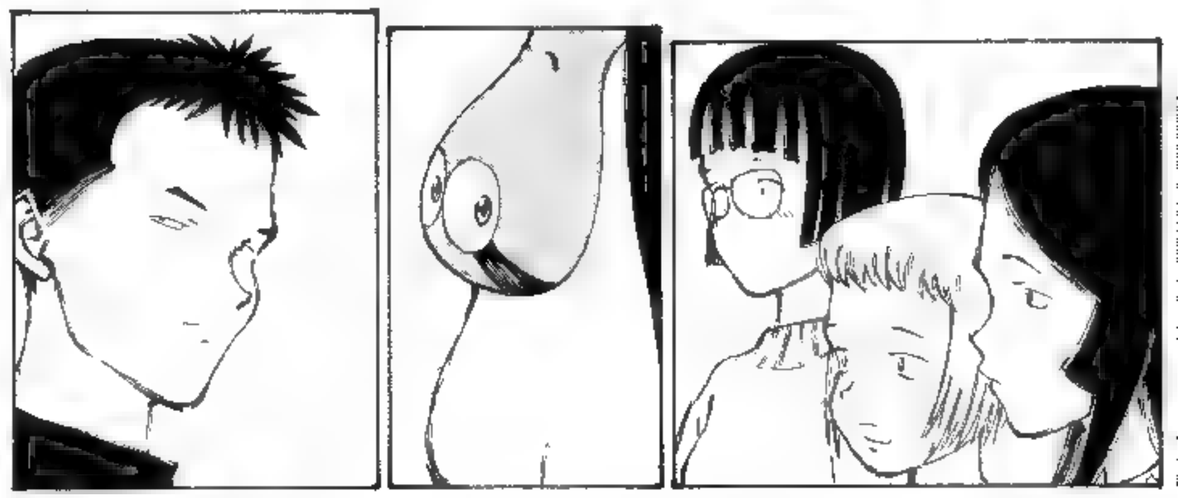
YES, HE *DOES...*








BUNGO'S! BUT WHY?!



KRAK

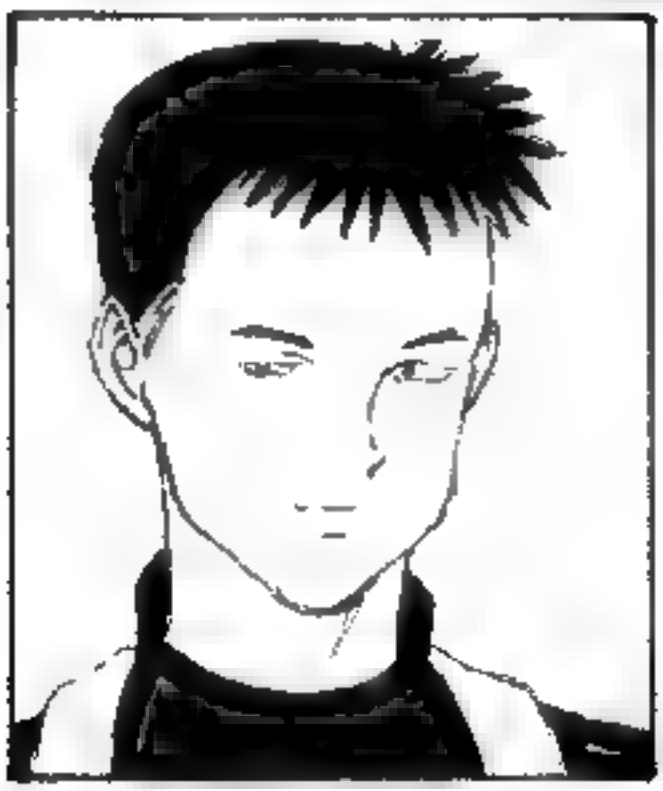
From a dying planet shall come the children of light.
ANIMEDIA
Shadow Star

THE CUP RUNNETH OVER, Part Two story & art by MOHIRO KITOH









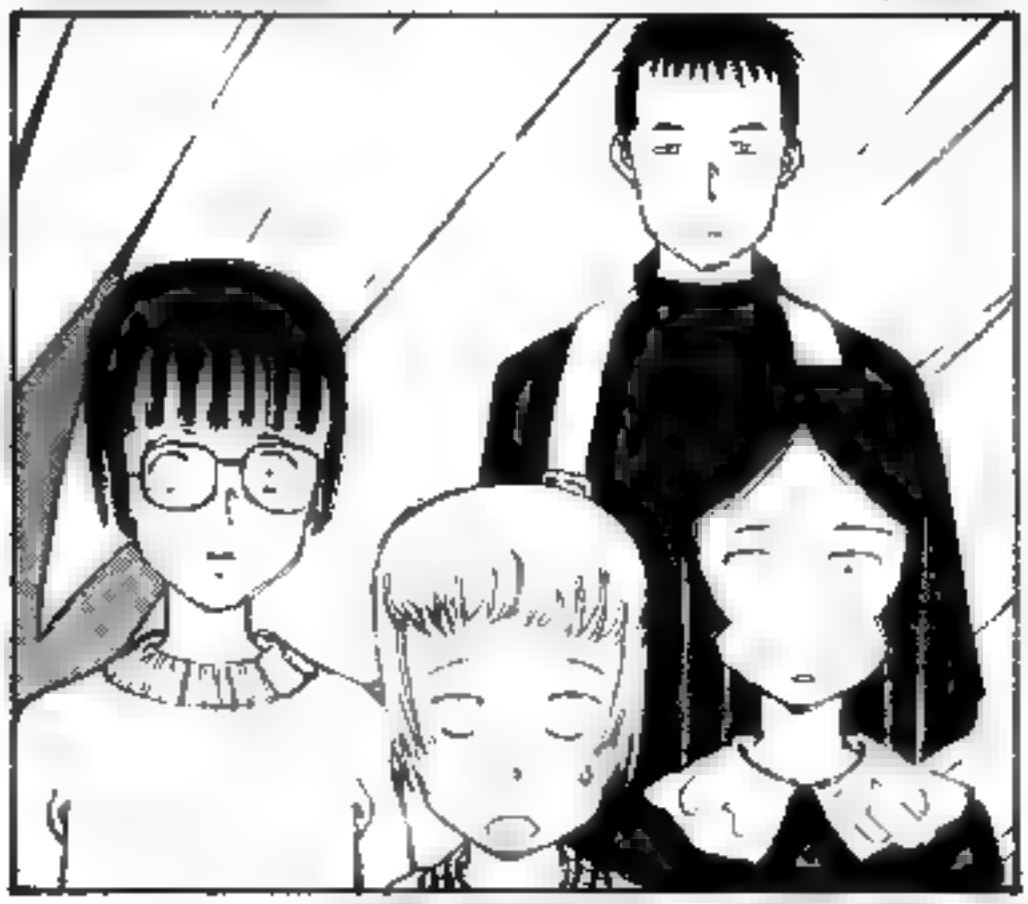




YOU GUYS...

...KILLED THEM!!






YOU...


YUH...

YOU GUYS!!

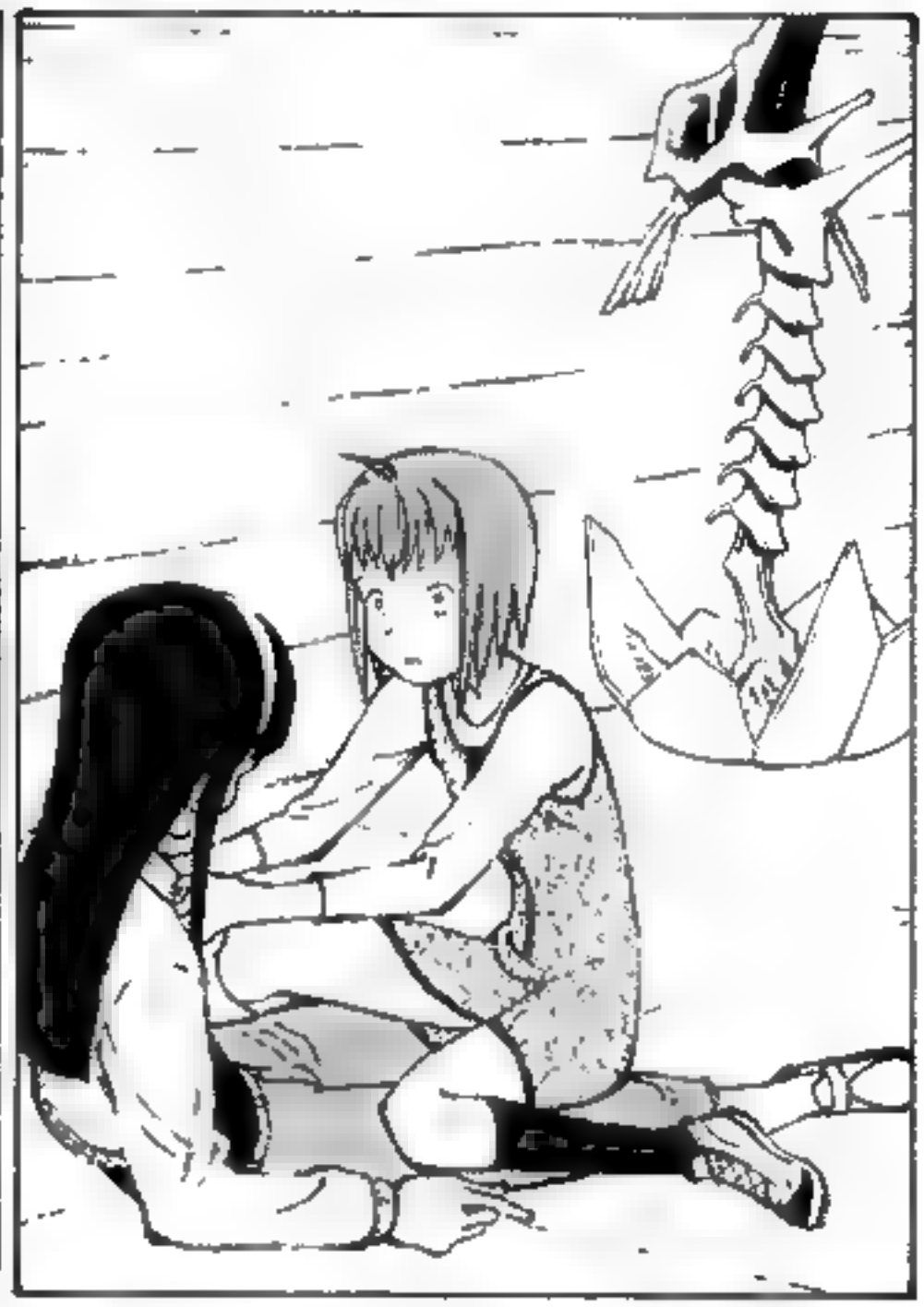
YOU KILLED ONO, RIGHT?!

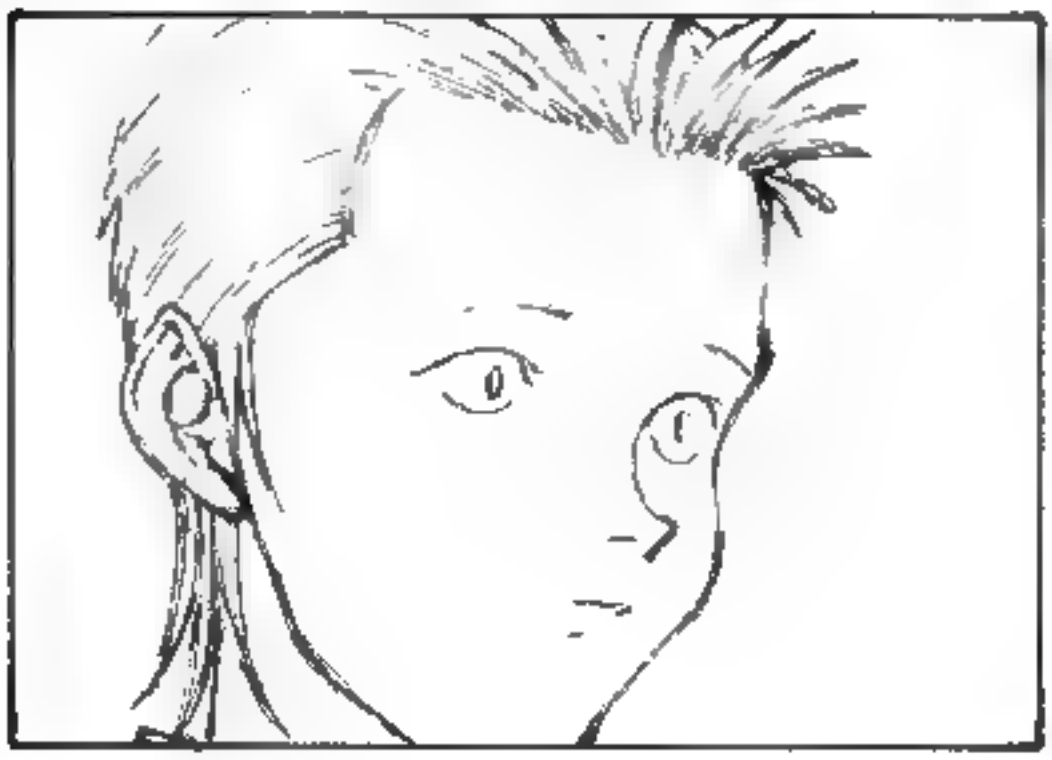

OHH...

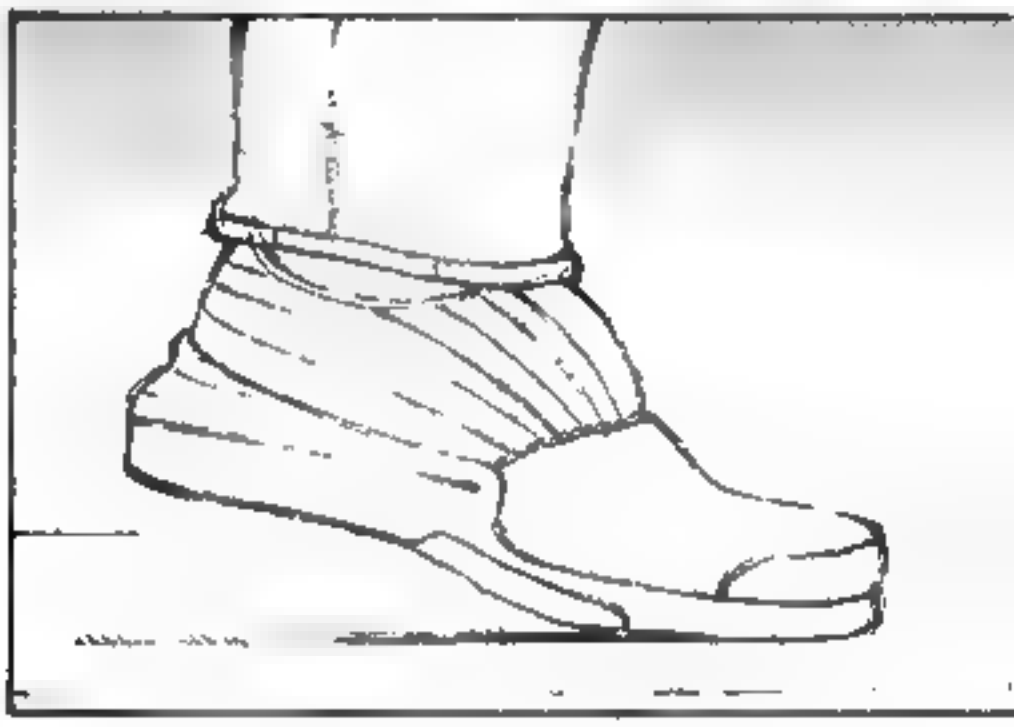





HUHN?







FMPP


WHDD
EEEK...!

HYAHH!

FTAM

AH!

UH!

LET ME GO!

OWWCH!

K-TCHAK

GET YOUR HANDS OFF HER!

AND *YOU* ARE ...?

HER GUARD-IAN.

SHE STARTED THIS, RIGHT?

THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE, IS IT?

BE-SIDES...

...DO YOU REALLY WANT TO START SOMETHING *HERE?*

THDD

OUT. YOU, TOO.

HEY, IT'S *OKAY* BY ME...

...AND NOTHING BEATS *GETTING ALONG.*

CREEPY... I'M OUTTA HERE.

SATOMI.

HEY! CUT IT OUT.

WHY ?!

BEATING ON SOME-ONE...

...WON'T BRING BACK THE DEAD.

BUH... BUT...

YOU, TOO...

YOU KILLED KOMORI.

NOW DIDN'T YOU?

YES. I KNEW IT.

SATOMI. COME ON.

I SENT YOUR FRIENDS HOME.

I REALLY RUINED THEIR DAY...

TAKEO...

I WANNA SEE *AKIRA*...

I WANNA SEE *ENSOF!*

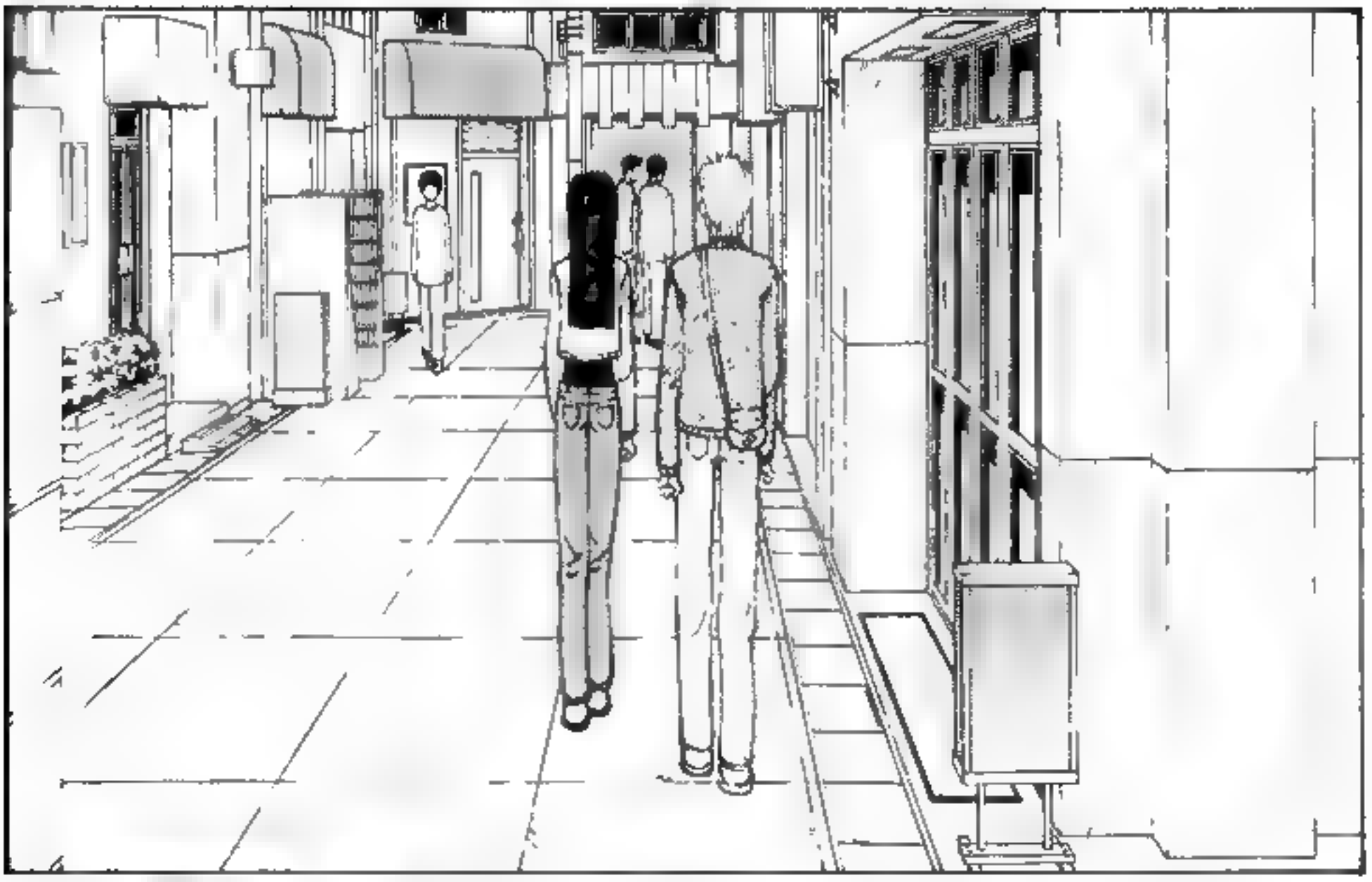
HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT SINCE SHE LEFT IT HERE.

I PROMISED NOT TO OPEN IT.

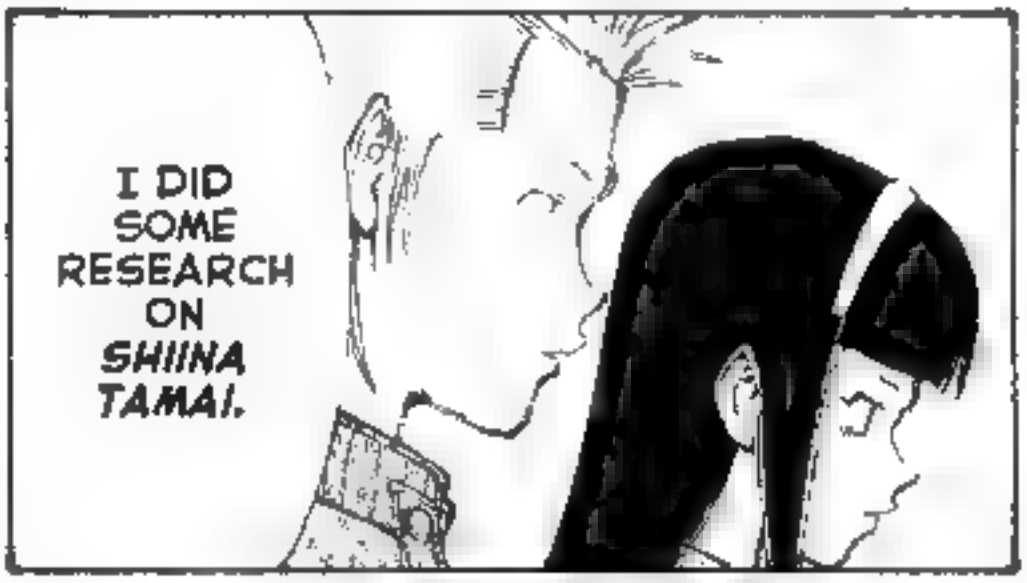
AKIRA.

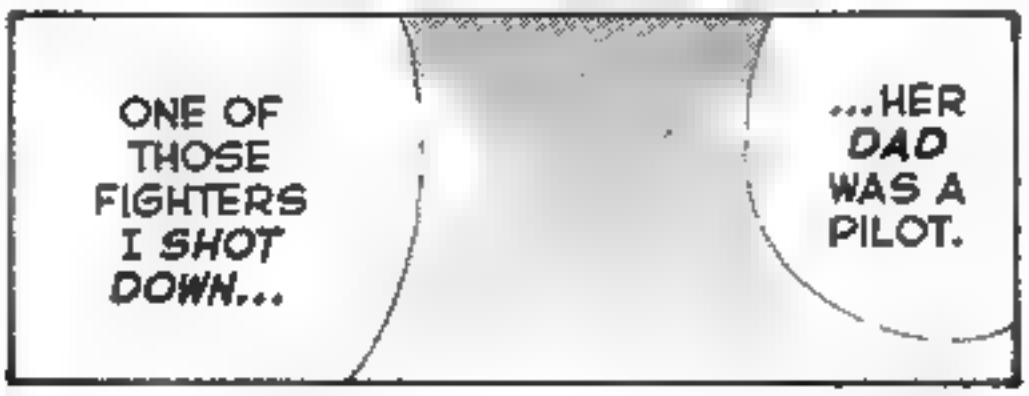
WHAT DO I...

...DO *NOW?*

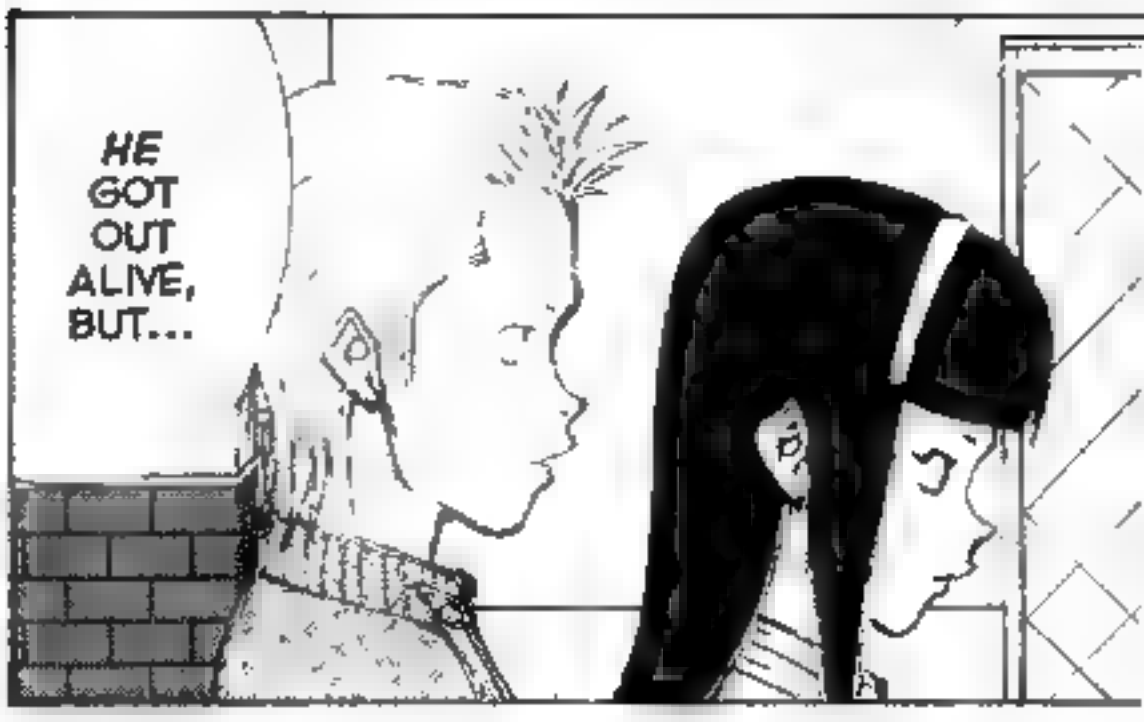





I DID SOME RESEARCH ON *SHIINA TAMAI.*


ONE OF THOSE FIGHTERS I *SHOT DOWN...*
...HER *DAD* WAS A PILOT.



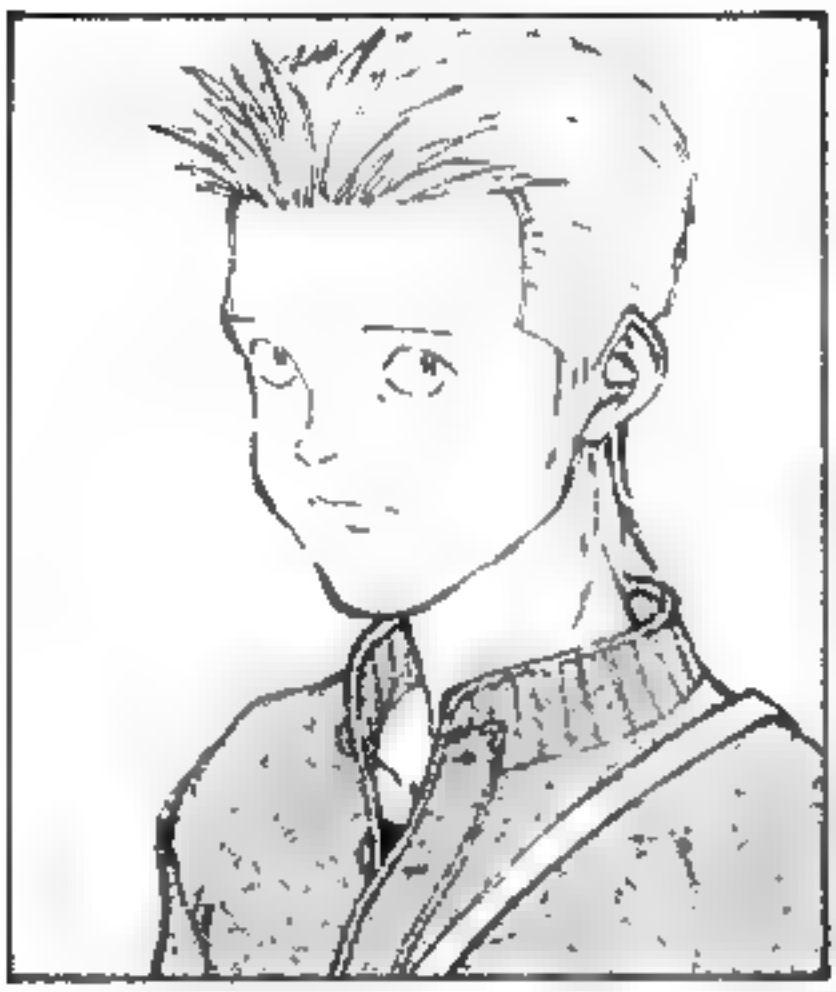

HE GOT OUT ALIVE, BUT...

AND HER *MOTHER--*

LISTEN, BUNGO...

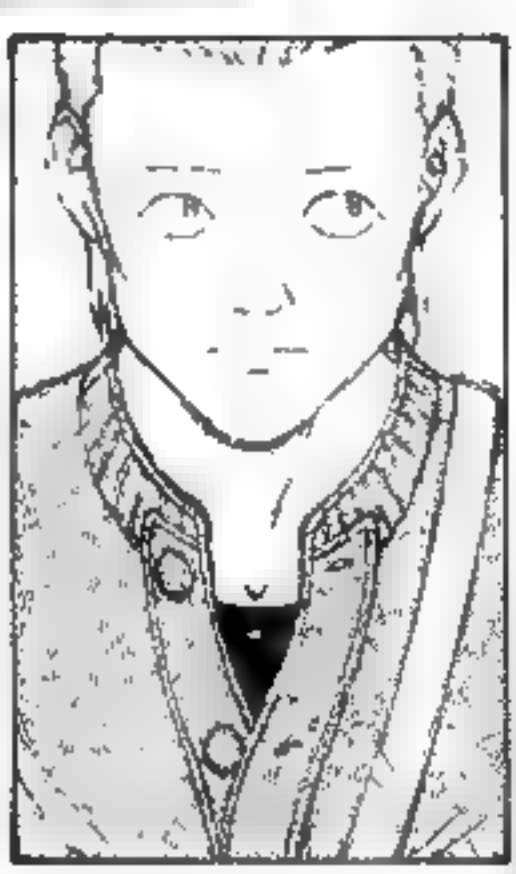
THAT GIRL...

I'LL *KILL HER!*

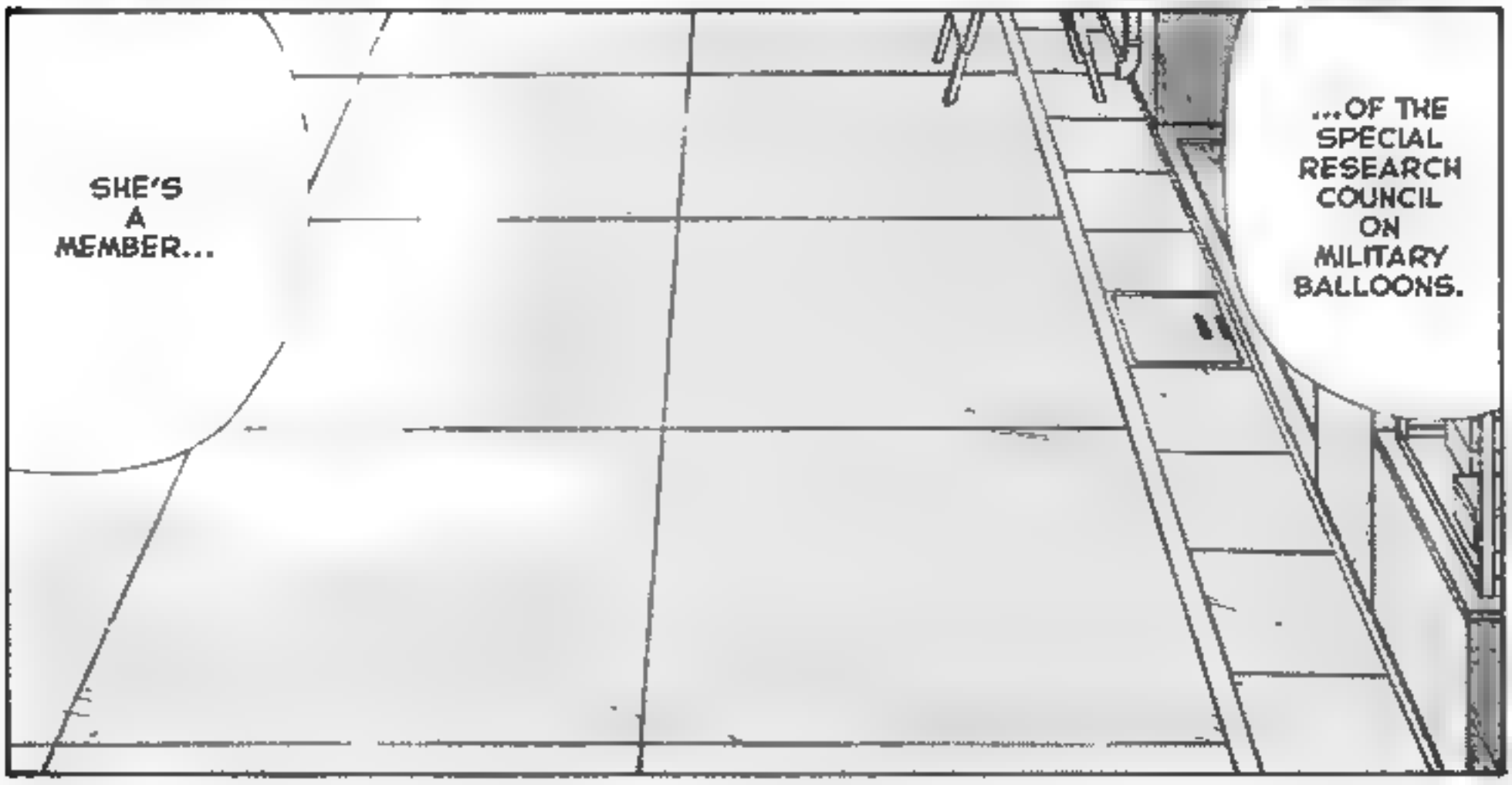



WE AGREED TO LEAVE THE *BEARERS*...
...TO *SUDO* AND *MIYAKO*, REMEMBER?


BUT IF THEY DIE, IT'S JUST *TOO BAD.*




SHIINA'S *MOTHER*...


SHE'S A MEMBER...
...OF THE SPECIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON MILITARY BALLOONS.

EH...? SO?

DOES SHE *KNOW?*

ABOUT HER *DAUGH-TER?*

THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

PROBABLY *NOT.*

THEN...

...WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

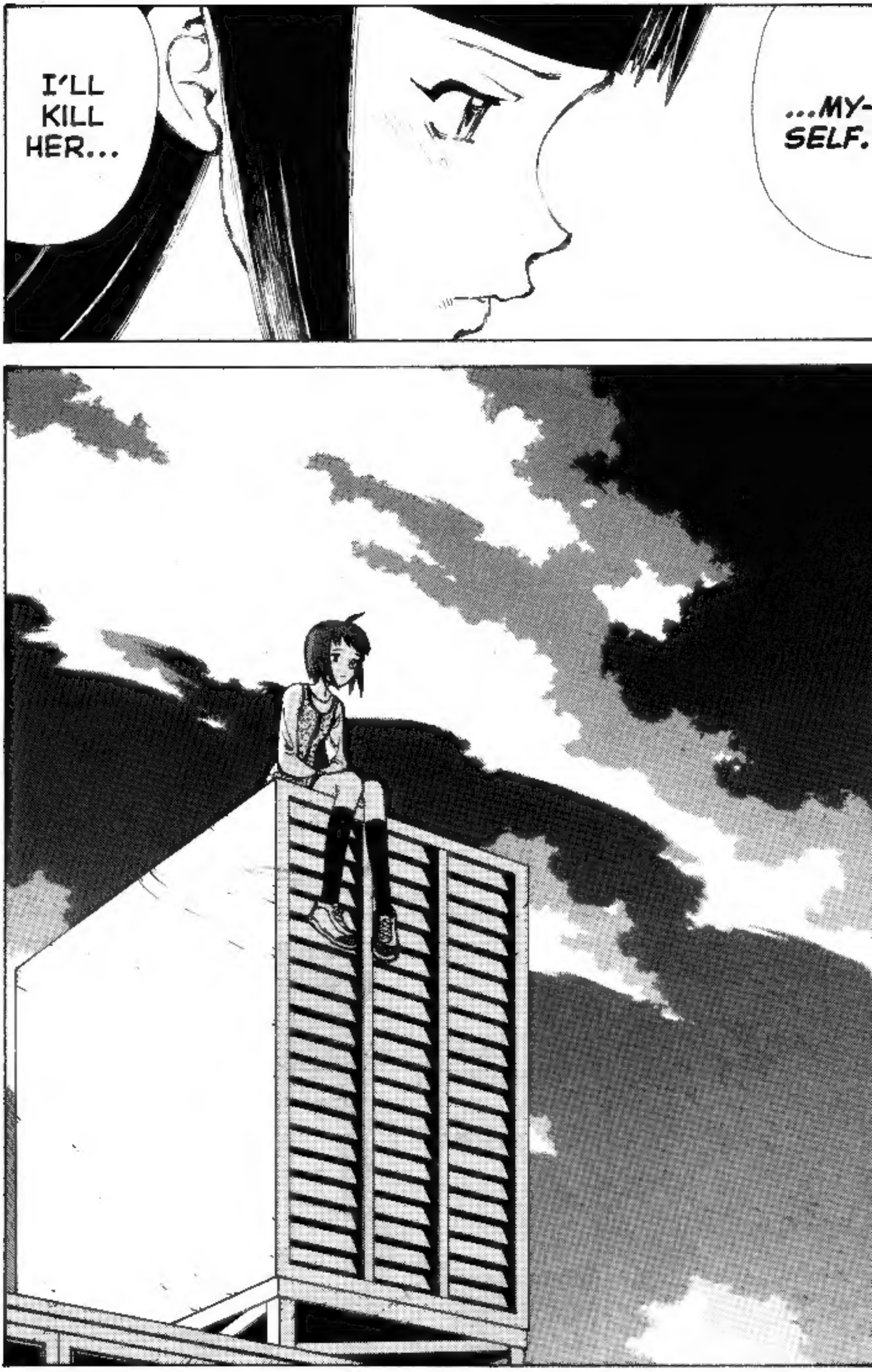
HER DAUGHTER JUST MEETS...

...AN *UNEXPECTED END.*

DON'T WORRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP.

I CAN'T COUNT ON YOU FOR *ANYTHING.*


I'LL KILL HER...
...MY-SELF.

OPENING UP THE DRESSING ROOM PART 7

design study

Long wingspan

The wings actually have no use?

Demonstrative purpose?

Miscellaneous stuff from past episodes

A "Dragon Child" lies below, in the water

A storehouse built in front of a cave entrance

Shinto rice bowl

What should I do about the subways?